# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

# INSIDE YOUR FIVE SECTION **PAPER**



Collect it gape at it: **Special art** issue

THEMAGAZINE

# The fight for green Britain GERER



United in opposition: Everyone from a mayor to local activists support direct action to stop 113 homes being built on this site next to the East Sussex town of Peacehaven Pictured left to right are: Roy Goodall, Mayor of Teiscombe; 'Dom' and 'Lizzy', local environmental campaigners; Mark Mansbridge, a community worker; John Livings, chair of Peacehaven Residents' Association; and Alan Byng, deputy mayor of Peacehaven

You can start collecting today

Flights to Europe from return

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DOUBLETOKENS PAGE 15: INDEPENDENTAND INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY TOKEN COLLECT

#### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Rapist forces legal change

A rapist whose actions led to Govemment promises to change the law after he humiliated his victims in court was told he would have to serve 21 years in jail for a series of attacks. Milton Brown, 44, caused outrage last year when he forced a widow and a graduate he had attacked at knifepoint to relive their torment in the witness box in intimare detail. Page 3

#### Pig run ends

a Heat the Dephine

AND THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

The great Malmesbury pig hunt finally ended yesterday when the remaining Ginger Tamworth escapee was captured by police and RSPCA Inspectors. Page 17

#### Head for sums

Schoolchildren under the age of seven or eight should be expected to do most mathematical calculations in their heads, rather than using pencil and paper, according a report from the Government's Numeracy Task Force, to be published next week. Page 3

WEATHER Time Off, page 2 TELEVISION The Eye CROSSWORDS Page 24 and Time Off, page 12

Wab address: http://www. independent.co.uk



Eco-warriors and roads protesters are joining the fight against housebuilding in the countryside, threatening occupations and tunnels on building sites. Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's decision not to stop massive housing development in Hertfordshire's green belt has not helped, says

Direct-action protesters say the time has come to shift from trying to stop roads - where they have a propaganda success - to hlocking new houses on greenfield sites.

**Environment Correspondent** 

Nicholas Schoon.

Local residents trying to save the green fields in their back yards show every sign of welcoming them. And more traditional campaigning groups. like Friends of the Earth, have no

Supponers of Earth First! are ex-

pected to attend a London conference today of community groups lighting housing plans, organised by FoE and the road protest group Alarm UK. The House Builders Federation is drawing up plans to defend its central London office from an invasion by Swampy-style activists.

The stakes were raised yesterday when John Prescott said he would not to stand in the way of plans to huld about 10.000 new homes on farmland west of Stevenage. At 800 hectares, it will be one of the biggest single losses of green helt land since the designation was invented 60 years ago to stop cities sprawling into one another.

"It's outrageous," said FoE. The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) said it had not seen such had decisions since Nicholas Ridley was a Tory environment sec-

retary in the Eighties. Mr Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment. Transport and the Regions had until today to decide whether to seek to change Hertfordshire County Council's structure plan - the blueprint which includes the green belt development.

Yesterday he told The Independent he accepted Hertfordshire's argument that building many of the new homes the county needed in the countryside just west of Sievenage was the best environmental option.

"It just made a lot of sense," he said. People living in the new residential area, the size of a small town, would be able to work and shop in nearby Stevenage and use its publie transport infrastructure, thereby minimising pollution.

But, in general, preserving the green belt remained "almost sacrosanct". Next month he will publish a document setting out how the Govemment would encourage new housing on derelier land within cities and minimise the need to build on greenfield, out-of-town sites. He said he was looking at the case for taxing this kind of development to discourage it. "The renaissance and attractiveness of cities is absolutely crucial for

this government.7 Environmentalists still have high hopes for this document. But Tony Burton, housing campaigner with the CPRE, said the Hertfordshire de-

cision "locks us in to continued damage to the countryside".

Greens were just as appalled by Mr Prescott's decision last month to order West Sussex County Council to find room for 12,800 homes. That is one third more than West Sussex argued the county could cope with if it was to avoid overcrowding and en-

vironmental degradation. They are still hoping Mr Prescott will intervene to stop the loss of 480 hectares of green belt land north of Newcastle. Mr Prescott's department has until next Wednesday to in-

tervene in the structure plan process. Hertfordshire wants to create five times as much new green belt land as the quantity which will be lost. guaranteeing half of the county's remaining countryside protection from

urban sprawl. But environmental groups and local residents say the existing green belt was created to stop Stevenage sprawling into rural areas. If it is scrapped when it comes under pressure for housing, then why should the new green belt be any safer, they say.

Stars back ban, page 3

# Have you got what it takes to save lives?

You don't need years of training as a nurse or doctor before you can save a life. You can stop a child dying from diseases like polio and diphtheria right now, simply by looking in your purse or wallet.

UNICEF is working to immunise children around the world against six horrific diseases. Each year, these diseases condemn more than 1.5 million children to an early grave - that's more child deaths in a year than those caused by famine and war put together.

It costs just £9 to immunise a child. UNICEF relies totally on voluntary contributions, so we urgently need your help. Will you help save a child's life today?

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## Britain rattles sabre at Saddam

The Government stepped up its sabre-rattling at Saddam Hussein, ordering the aircraft carrier Invincible to the Gulf. But it is unclear whether the US or Britain really have an Intention of delivering on their threats. Anthony Bevins and Patrick Cockburn report on the latest standoff between Iraq and the UN Security council.

The Ministry of Defence said the decision to move the carrier from the Mediterranean followed recent Iraqi attempts to block the work of the UN special commission, sent in to find and destroy weapons of mass destruction.

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said: "Saddam's continued obstruction of UN inspectors is a matter of serious concern. We remain determined to see that the authority of the UN and the international community is upheld.

A US-led team of arms inspectors left Baghdad yesterday, easing the confrontation with Iraq, which had accused its leader of being a spy. UN officials in Baghdad insisted they had planned to leave anyway and their departure was not the result of fraqipressure. Scott Ritter, the inspector accused of espionage, said "We will be back" as he and 15 other team members left Baghdad for an air base 40 miles away. They were to fly to

Iraq had barred the team from cur-

Bahrain and then to New York.

Meanwhile, Richard Butler, the chief of UN inspections, is to visit Baghdad to demand full access to all sites. President Clinton is waiting to see

rying out inspections since Monday.

the results of Mr Butler's visit. He said he expected solid support in the UN and praised a Security Council statement this week that deploted the blocking of the US-led team. The UN Security Council ordered

the destruction of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes as a condition for ending the 1991 Gulf War. UN officials report progress in climinating the nitclear and chemical programmes but suspect Iraq is holding back considerable information on biological weaponry, fraq says the inspectors are simply being used as an excuse to

maintain sanctions against Iraq. Desite a facade of unity at the Security Council and British backing, the US appears to be making no progress in winning broad support for action to punish Iraq. Three of the five permanent memers of the Security Council - Russia, China and France - want sanctions to be eased and Iraq to be

given hope of them being lifted. "Our first priority is to pursue all possible diplomatic avenues to persuade Iraq of the folly of its repeated efforts to thwart UNSCOM, and to secure its full and unreserved compliance with Security Council resolutions," said Mr Robertson. Saddam's track record clearly demonstrates that he only shows respect for diplomacy when it is backed by military strength and readiness."

## In TV's battle of ideas, the viewer is the loser

There used to be a joke that all Australian soap operas were made in the same building in downtown Sydney so that the three actors who seemed to star in everything from The Sullivans to Country Practice could run from studio to studio while changing costumes.

It now appears that British television is no better off for ideas than Seventies Australia was for soap stars.

ITV has announced that it is planning a major drama about the lives of ambulance drivers. This, it claims, will be nothing like Casualty. Oh no, nothing like it. The BBC's drama is about ambulance drivers and nurses. ITV's drama is just about ambulance drivers. So it is only half like Casualty. The bandage-swaddled extras in ITV's show will no doubt just be dropped off at the doors of casualty departments so viewers don't get



This comes hard on the heels of the Neighbours at War/Neighbours from Hell debacle two weeks ago when both the BBC and ITV "real people" documentary units reached the inevitable point where everybody in the country has been filmed for a fly-on-the-wall documentary.

There is more dejà vu programming like this to come hecause ITV has poached the man who made Driving School and Airport for the BBC indeed ITV is planning a programme with the original title of Airline. Which, rather like the Casualty rip-off, will no doubt stop filming when planes get to airport departure gates so no one can claim it is derivative.

Keeping with the transport theme, there is presumably an ITV documentary planned which will follow people in taxis getting taken to the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, but will then leave them as they get to the door. If the "real people" documentary trend is not stopped soon then Andy Warhol's "famous for 15 minutes" prediction will prove to have been woe-

fully optimistic: we shall all end up with our own IS-part series.

And when the one British television idea gets a little threadbare at the elbows there is of course other people's ideas to nick: 1TV (oh dear, them again) also announced this week its own version of Friends, starring Helen Baxendale - who was once in Cardiac Ariest, a medical drama that

had very few ambulances in it. This sit-com, Cold Feet, will be about six yuppie friends in Manchester. To be fair to ITV this will probably be nothing like Friends in so far as Friends is funny. An idea which ITV sit-coms never, ever, try to steal.

Even on the cutting edge of television, things are no better. BBC 2 announced this week that they would be investing in more themed nights -one for later this year devoted to the career of Michael Caine, and one

in April to mark Spike Milligan's 80th hirthday. This is all very nice for fans of Michael Caine and Spike Milligan, but themed nights have rather overstayed their welcome. When Channel 4developed them as a wheeze to cover up acres of repeats, you could only admire their chutzpah. But now that everyone is at it, it is only a matter of time before we get a night devoted to ambulances driven by Australian actors.

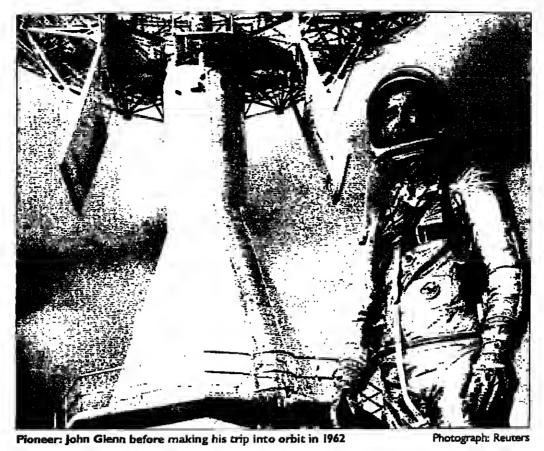
- Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

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Glenn's second chance to make history in space

Nasa about John Glenn, now 76. He was the first other adventure into the unknown." Glenn said. American to orbit the Earth - and, if a mission this October (by which time he will be 77) goes smoothly, also the oldest to do so.

It was 36 years ago that Glonn thrilled his country by catching up with the Soviet Union in the space race. Since then he has become a Democratic senator representing Ohio. Yesterday he declared he was ready to go, confessing to "a real sense of dejà 121."

"Needless to say. I'm excited to be back and I'm bonoured and I'm privileged." he said. "The important thing is the opportunity that this gives to take us in some new directions in research."

The particular focus of the research will be on ageing, and the effects of space travel on an older body. Glenn exercises daily and lifts weights, but his body has 36 more years of wear and tear than when it last experienced the extreme forces of hlast-off on 20 February. 1962. Doctors will study the effect of weight-

his ability to hounce back afterwards.

If you have the Right Stuff, then it never goes away. a payload specialist on the Shuttle Discovery for a That seems to be the opinion of the US space agency flight tentatively set for October. "I see this as an-

> Since he flew into the unknown for the first time, Nasa also has 36 more years of space expertise, but that doesn't translate into a hazard-free mission. One space experi said. "Probably there's as much risk today flying the Shuttle as there was then because (in 1962) Glenn had an escape rocket that there isn't on the orbiter. And I wouldn't want to go through the training he would have to go through."

Even so, Glenn lobbied Nasa extensively to get it to consider using him for geriatric research, helping to connect the space agency's researchers with scientists eager for the information that tests in weightlessness might provide about human ageing.

The lests are "scientific research on the process of getting older, which we're all concerned about," said John Logsdon, of George Washington University.

"What is happening is they've decided to make Glenn the subject of those experiments, not maklessness on Glenn's bones and immune system, and ing up the experiment so he can fly," be said. "I think that's an important distinction."

- Charles Arthur, Science Editor

days-a-week presenter's job at

Channel 5. and said Evans was a

### Evans pulls plug on old rival Jono Coleman

The award-winning Virgin Radio presenter Jonothan Coleman bas been sacked by his former rival and new boss, Chris Evans, while he is on holiday.

The announcement of Coleman's departure was made while be was in his native Australia with his mother, Sylvia, who is ill. But his Russ'n'Jono show partner. Russell Williams, is staying on at the station, in which Evans bought a controlling interest, for £85m, last year. "The show had run its course and Jonothan is moving on." a Virgin spokesman said. "All good things must come to an end and we wish Jono every success in the future."

When Russ'n'Jono were Evans's main breakfast rivals during his spell at Radio 1, Coleman missed no opportunity to take the rise out of him. He taunted Evans with their Sony Award for best breakfast show - a missed



Jono Coleman: Never passed up a chance to needle Evans

prize that angered Evans so much that he refused to accept his Broadcaster of the Year award at the same ceremony. When Evans prepare his Channel 4 show. Coleman pointed to his own five- sonality."

lightweight. Losing their Virgin Radio hreakfast slot to Evans in October was a blow for Russ'n' Jono. There

were rumours they had been sacked - until Coleman went to a football match with the Virgin proprietor. Richard Branson, and their new drivetime show was announced a week later. Coleman was last on air five weeks ago, before his annual Australian break. Bosses made the decision to let him go two days ago, and told his agent yesterday. Williams, who used to have his own solo show, will now follow Evans at 10am each day, and rising star Robin Banks will do the 4-7pm drivetime show. walked out of Radio 1 because it The spokesman said: "Russ has alwould not give him Fridays off to ways been a music presenter, whereas Jono was more of a per-

#### Seagal sues Saudi prince over £30m film deal

Action hero Steven Seagal bas decided law suits speak louder than Under Siege, Out for Justice and Un- his company Seagal/Nasso Profists and is suing a Saudi prince he says reneged on a film deal.

Seagal is suing Prince Abdulilad bin Abdul Aziz al Saud, half brother to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, for more than \$25m (£15m) after the prince pulled out of financing the film Men of Honour.

The movie star says Prince Abdulilad is a man of no honour after failing to go through with a 1992 verbal agreement, confirmed in writing, to finance the film for £30m in return for world-wide distribution rights.

der Siege 2: Dark Territory, is suing for breach of contract, intentional misrepresentation and negligent misrepresentation.

tial arts experi Seagat who says he made expensive preparations for filming, believing he had secured funding from the prince.

Los Angeles Superior Court, the vember, which Seagal's lawyers say orince stumped up \$1.65m hut he has ignored. They have asked failed to follow up with the rest. the prince's lawyers to explain his The actor says he has no idea why actions to the Los Angeles court. the prince did not go through with

Seagal, 47, star of films such as the deal. As a result, Seagal says ductions Incorporated has tost a substantial sum of money.

Seagal's lawyer, Scott Lord, said: "With \$30m all from one Men of Honour was to star mar- source, Steven went ahead with preparations to make the film. The prince forwarded \$1.65m for expenses and then pulled the plug."

Prince Abdulilad was served According to the suit filed at the with a writ in New York in No-

#### **Luther King follows** in father's footsteps

The son of Martin Luther King was yesterday made head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference - on what would have been the assassinated civil rights leader's 69th birtbday.

Martin Luther King III, aged 40, takes over the organisation founded by his father in 1957. He replaces the Rev Joseph Lowery, who along with the Rev David Ahernathy and other civil rights leaders helped King found the conference. The movement now has over 100 associate groups across the US.

A conference spokesman said: "Mr King will help the SCLC continue in its mission to create a climate where African Americans have equal rights to jobs. housing and to the American dream."

### UPDATE

#### PUBLIC FINANCE

#### Cost of Mandelson's Disney trip

The cost to the taxpayer of Peter Mandelson's four-day visit to the United States earlier this month, during which be visited Disney World, was £3,450, he revealed last night in a series of written Commons replies to John Redwood, sbadow Trade and Industry Secretary, and Francis Maude, shadow spokesman on Culture, Media and Sport.

The Minister without Portfolio, said: "Walt Disney are world leaders in entertainment." He had visited Disney World to learn at first band from their wide experience, lessons that could be applied to the Millennium Dome: project. "I had extensive discussions on technical matters, managing the flow of visitors, service facilities, and other aspects of this highly successful public attraction."

Asked by Mr Redwood how much it would have cost to go to the Paris Disney World, Mr Mandelson said he had particularly wanted to visit the Educational Prototype Community of Tomorrow Centre, in Miami, and . he had also been able "to fit in a short programme in Washington", arranged by the embassy, following a private overnight stay on arrival. "A direct cost comparison is not therefore relevant in this case," he said.

- Anthony Bevins, Political Editor

#### **EDUCATION**

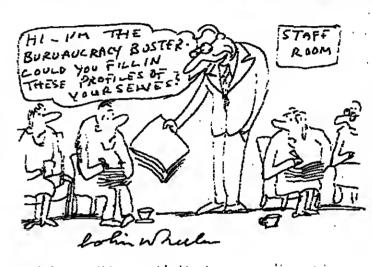
#### Unit to cut red tape in schools

A bueaucracy-husting unit will be set up as part of Government plans to cut red tape in schools.

A report drawn up by a working group established last May recommends that the Government should consult fewer schools about policy, set up pitots to show how teachers can streamline administration, review demands

on teachers and simplify the hidding process for funds. Inspectors are to be urged to concentrate on standards, not on whether schools have written policies for everything and the Government will try to cut down the requirements for assessing and recording pupils' work.

Teachers' leaders welcomed the report with reservations. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The Government has at least five new initatives lined up. There is no evidence that it has considered whether there is time for them in the school day.". — Judith Judd, Education Editor



#### **FISHERIES**

#### Net gain for dolphin population

The Government yesterday acted to help save dwindling dolphin populations by announcing changes to licences for tuna drift net fishing. Elliot Morley, the fisheries minister, said the move would affect the

as south-west of Britain. He said: "This is the first step towards ending the unacceptable toll of

dolphins in drift nets. The UK is pressing for the agreement of other EU member states to

take similar immediate action as well as to agree to a phase-out." The licence will apply to all UK vessels over 10 metres and will prevent additional vessels joining the fleet pending EU agreement to a phase-

Mr Morley said that from I Fehruary, the only UK vessels eligible to fisb for tuna using drift nets, for which a separate non-transferable licence; will be required, will be those which did so in either 1996 or 1997.

"This will limit participation to a maximum of 10 vessels, and some of these have been approved for a decommissioning grant which they can take up by the end of February."

#### **COMPUTERS**

#### Gearing up for millennium bomb

Four full-time officials are working on the Department of Trade and Industry's initiative to belp UK husiness tackle the millennium computer timebomb, Cheryl Gillan, the Tory frontbench spokeswoman, was told last night. Mrs Gillan complained that with less than 500 working days left before

the millennium, the Government had wasted precious time by ahandoning its own Taskforce 2000, replacing it with Action 2000, which had yet to take any action.

Barbara Roche, the junior trade minister who has been given lead responsibility for the issue, told Mrs Gillan in a written Commons reply that a package of support for small- and medium-sized husinesses would be announced this month as part of a Millennium Bug Campaign. Action 2000 has an annual budget of £1m, but Mrs Gillan was told by the Ministry of Defence that its current estimate of the cost of tackling the problem was a tentative £200m.

— Anthony Bevins, Political Editor

#### **HEALTH**

#### Scots cut heart-attack deaths

Scotland is set to achieve its target 40-per-cent reduction in heart disease deaths set under the 1992 Health of the Nation strategy two years ahead of the original deadline of 2000.

Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, Sir David Carter, said the Government would now look at increasing the target from the year 2000 because of the good progress being made.

"We are well on course," he said. "It is reassuring that we're moving in the right direction but we want to see much more movement. We bave almost hit the target, so we will want to have a new target."

However, the reduction still leaves Scotland topping the table in the number of premature deaths from beart disease in people under the age

Sir David added "It is going to remain a priority of the Government, as Scotland has a terrible record in coronary heart disease."

- Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

#### BBC World/BBC News 24

An article in yesterday's Independent suggested that the BBC has cut jobs from its global news channel BBC World to subsidise the cost of BBC News 24. In fact, the funding for the two channels is entirely separate: the former is funded by advertising revenue while BBC News 24 is licence fee funded. No senior World editors are being made

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

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## n's Disney trip

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Senior British sports figures yesterday welcomed the Government's pledge to stop state schools and local authorities

selling off playing fields. As three government departments announced co-ordinated starutory measures to halt further sales, Tessa Sanderson, Olympic javelin thrower, and Roger Uttley, England's rugby union manager, spoke of the urgent need for more facil-

next generation of sports stars. Regulations to he tahled to

the School Standards and Framework Bill, which is currently before Parliament, will mean state schools will need the permission of the education secretary before selling any more land. At the same time, the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and the Department of

tend to tighten planning controls. A new adjudication process will rule on local authority sales which are opposed

by the English Sports Council. The Government has also sent a clear message to LEAs "discouraging" them from selling any more before the proposed legislation became law. The legislation currently before threat. Parliament affects schools in

ines if Britain hopes to breed the Culture. Media and Sport in- England but it is likely that yesterday's move would be extended across the country.

Over the past two decades school playing fields have been sold off at an alarming rate as local authorities tried to raise money from surplus assets. More than 5,000 have gone to private developers since 1981. and thousands more are under

— Clare Garner

## Sorry, kids: in the calculator age, sums still matter

Proposals to raise standards in maths with a new emphasis on mental arithmetic and more, better whole-class teaching, will be proposed by the Government's Numeracy Task Force next week. But the report is not a blueprint for a return to traditional

teaching methods, says judith judd, Education Editor.

British children are lagging behind their counterparts elsewhere because schools' expectations of them are too low, the report says. Children should be expected to do most mathematical calculations in their heads, rather than using pencil and paper, until they are seven or eight.

The task force, led by Professor David Reynolds of Newcastle University, will give a strong endorsement to methods being tri-alled by the National Numeracy Project, in which 10 minutes are spent at the beginning of each maths lesson on mental calculation. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, commissioned the inquiry to help fulfil his promise that 75 per cent of 11-year-olds will be at the expected level in maths by the year 2002. The present figure is 62 per cent.

Last year England came tenth out of 17. far behind countries in the Pacific Rim and Eastern Europe, in an international survey of the mathematical performance of nineyear-olds. Countries such as the United States, Canada and Ireland, which were level with or below England six years previously, have pulled ahead.

The task force report draws on the ex-perience of Hungary and Switzerland as well as several projects in Britain, especially the National Numeracy Project.

British teachers spend less time teaching the whole class than those in most other countries. The figure is between 25 and 30 per cent compared with between 70 and 80 per ceot in some Pacific Rim countries. The report urges more whole-class teaching, though it does not specify how

group want to see a dramatic change in the complete.

educational culture in Britain and an end to the assumption that there will always be a sizeable minority of children who cannot make the grade.

Professor Reynolds and his team do not advocate a return to the teaching methods of the fifties, when children sat in desks in rows and the teacher taught the whole class all the time. Nor do they propose the com-pulsory chanting of times tables.

Instead, they argue that teachers should use a mixture of methods. Though there should be more whole-class teaching in which children take an active part, pupils should also work in groups and on their own. Practical and investigative maths in which they find out things for themselves should continue alongside a renewed emphasis on mental calculation. Multiplication tables should be taught but in many different ways including the use of games and computers.

The quality of teaching, they say, is just as important as the method and teachers should be given more training. Where schools are getting good results, they

should not be required to change. Ministers have said they expect all primary schools to have a "numeracy hour" every day in the same way as the prescribed literacy hour. However, the report suggests that schools should spend hetween 45 minutes and an hour each day on numeracy. Experience of teachers involved in the National Numeracy Project suggests that an hour may be too long.

Parents should play a key role in raising standards, the report suggests. Materials should be available for them to help their children with maths even before they start school and help should be offered to parents who feel their own maths is so

had that they cannot help their children. There should be a national year of reading, perhaps to coincide with International Maths Year in the year 2000. It would involve parents and the rest of the community in the same way as the National Year of Reading which is due to start this September. On the place of calculators in primary schools, on which the team were asked to advise, the report is silent. Some members are thought to be angry the Govern-Like the Literacy Task Force, whose rement decided to ban calculators in primary port was published last year, the maths schools last year before their report was

THE INDEPENDENT



Calculating look: Children should initially do most sums in their heads, the report says

## in monday's



Is Elisabeth Murdoch as scary as her dad?

MEDIA+

**Deborah Ross** interviews Julie Burchill

FEATURES

Do our genes determine us? The experts slug it out

SCIENCE

### Twenty-one years for rapist who humiliated victims in court

Women win protection from

'second rape' in the witness box

How The independent broke the story last month

A rapist, whose actions led to Government promises to change the law after he humiliated his victims in court, was told he would have to serve a total of 21 years in jail for a series of vicious attacks... Steve Boggan and Melvyn Howe

Milton Brown caused public

outrage last year when he made

The legal system gave him

fence and, despite obvious anx-

powerless in the face of a man

who took his rights and abused

He could not be named at the time to avoid prejudicing a

them as much as his victims.

second case, involving the re-

peated savage beating of a girl-

friend, Susan McDonald, 29.

whom he imprisoned for five

days without medical help with

a festering stah wound and

multiple hreaks and fractures.

Charles QC, sitting at Knights-

bridge Crown Court, west Lon-

don, sentenced the former

mechanic to five years in prison

for the attacks on Miss Mc-

But yesterday, Judge Leo

than his own pleasure.

two sex-attack victims re-live their ordeals in the witness box broken ribs, a broken arm and - apparently for nothing more injuries all over her body after being hit by Brown, 44. with bottles, a pool cue and wood

encrusted with nails. the right to conduct his own de-That was added on to the 16 years he was already facing for iety, the trial judge was two other sex attacks in 1996. Only at the end of yesterday's proceedings could it be revealed that he also has a total of 58 convictions for violence. dishonesty and sexual offences, including child molestation.

As Brown screamed and yelled that he had been convicted by a "kangaroo coun", and while the jury sat shaking their heads, having found him guilty of the attack on Miss Mc-Donald only by majority verdict. the judge went on: "The public is in need of protection from you because you showed just how dangerous you are and just how

Donald, who suffered multiple much very serious harm you cause to other people when you are at large." Brown's spree of violence began early in 1996 when he befriended a 38-yearold mother of three who had just arrived in London. She met Brown and accepted his offer of accommodation, which turned

> into a 15-hour rape ordeal. After beginning a relation-ship with Miss McDonald in May 1996, he became obsessive and began accusing her of seeing other men. He beat her over and over again and locked her in his flat in Camherwell, south east London, taking her out in a wig and dark glasses only to hobble to a soup kitchen.

During one of these visits. she escaped when he was distracted by a 31-year-old graduate, who was drank, having been celebrating an exam success. While Miss McDonald to represent themselves.

Sports stars back ban on sale of school fields

limped away, the graduate was sexually assaulted at knifepoint.

During last year's trial, he spent days cross examining the women. The rape victim had to give ryldesine reviewaliae the fury was discharged following a violent exchange between Brown

and the judge, Timothy Pontius. "Do I have to put up with this an one of the women asked the judge. "I have never been so humiliated in my life."

After jailing Brown for 16 years, Judge Pontius said it was "highly regrettable" that the law allowed a defendant "to question his victims in needlessly extended and agonising detail for the obvious purpose of intimidation and humiliation".

Tony Blair and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, have said they want to end an offenders' right to commit "second rape" in court. And last month, Lord fivine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, told The Independent that judges would be given more powers to intervene in cross-examinations, conducting it themselves in cases where alleged rapists appeared to be humiliating their victims.

The Home Office said yesterday that proposed changes could be put forward as soon as the spring. It is understood the main obstacle will be in complying with the European Convention on Human Rights. which gives defendants the right

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## **Dublin renews** calls for **Bloody Sunday** investigation

The Irish government has stepped up its pressure for an independent public investigation of Bloody Sunday in advance of next week's anticipated Commons statement on the issue by Tony Blair. David McKittrick and Alan Murdoch assess its chances.

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. is understood to have underlined to the Prime Minister in a telephone conversation his view that ties would wish at all costs to nothing less than an independent public inquiry would be accident in Londonderry in 1972.

The Irish authorities are determined any new investigation should be fully independent and headed by a figure of prestige acceptable to would not suffice,

due to answer a parliamentary question from Norman Godon Northern Ireland, who yesterday travelled to London-Tony Blair and the Northern against it." Ireland Secretary. Mo Mowlam, were sympathetic to calls for a fresh inquiry. The 26th anniversary of the deaths falls on 30 January. A campaign to have the incident reopened has years for planning to blow up gained momentum in recent years, winning the support of Dublin and other important elements. The past year in par- sponsible for 16 killings in Engticular has seen the emergence land in the 1970s.

of new evidence shedding fresh light on the incident.

Duhlin has compiled its own report. said to provide detailed analysis of the latest evidence and to draw "very strong conclusions."

While the Government has come under pressure to act, it represents a political and legal minefield for the authorities.

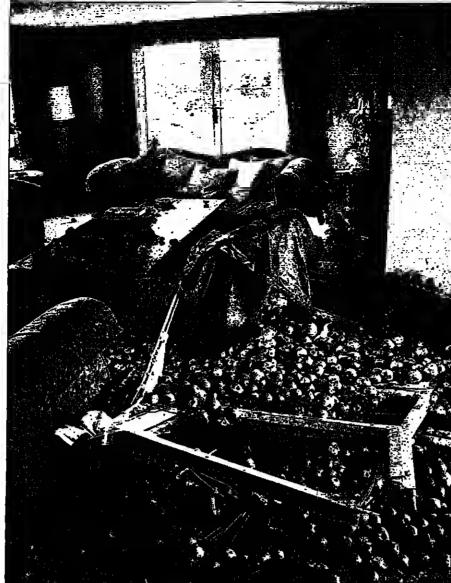
Almost any move, whether in the form of a new inquiry or an official apology, raises the question of possible prosecution of the paratroopers who fired the shots or, conceivably, their superior officers.

It is presumed the authoriavoid charges and trials.

There is no clear optimism ceptable to Dublin. Fourteen in Irish government circles that civilians were killed in the in- the inquiry will be conceded, given Ministry of Defence reservations about the damage that might result for the Army's reputation and the civil service if a cover-up were exposed.

Campaigner Tony Doherty. all sides. Mr Ahern made clear whose father Paddy was among again his view that an apology those killed, said: "It appears from all accounts that the Oo Wedoesday Mr Blair is British Cabinet may be at odds with itself as to how it may proceed. There are clearly differman, chairman of the Labour ent forces at work. Some of the party's hack-bench committee members of the Cabinet may well agree with demands to establish a new inquiry but there derry to view the scene of the are forces such as the Ministry killings. He said he believed of Defence, who would he

Yesterday seven IRA prisoners were transferred from Britain to the Irish Republic. They included five men who six months ago were jailed for 35 British power-stations in 1996, and members of the "Balcombe Street gang", who were re-





Apple avalanche: Householder Tim Reeve (right) and his family escaped injury yesterday when a lorry overturned outside their home in Aspall Green, near Debenham, Suffolk, spilling a ton of fruit into the property

## Gays protest after sex video convictions

Gay activists yesterday protested at the prosecution of seven gay men who were filmed in a private video having consensual sex . Michoel Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, reports on a case which has outraged many in the homosexual community.

The case of the so-called Bolton Seven, who were convicted last Monday, at the town's crown court of various sexual offences, is rapidly becoming a cause célèbre among gays. At least one of those convicted, 55-year-old Terry Connell, has been warned by the judge that he faces imprisonment.

Janet Cragg, a lawyer representing six of the defendants, said their prosecution, which is

The COPERATIVE BANK

thought to have cost around £300,000, was a "complete waste of public money".

Peter Tatchell, of the gay pressure group Outrage, said the seven were in effect being "marmen have been prosecuted let alone that some of them may be sent to prison."

The case began after a former lodger of onc of the seven sent police a video of the men involved in various sexual acts, including buggery and oral sex. A police raid on the home of one of the men in the town later found another video.

Although some of the men, who all come from the area, admitted buggery, four of them denied gross indecency. Under the Sexual Offences Act 1967, in which homosexual acts between two consenting adults were legalised, such sex is only le- raised at the trial.

gal if no more than two men are present.

Although three of the defendants were also convicted of sex with someone under age - one of them was 17 at the time - activists are contyred". He added: "It is not in the public cerned that such prosecutions are an attack on interest or in the interests of justice that these consensual gay sex. The men claimed the videos were simply for their personal use and that everyone had taken part with consent.

The Crown Prosecution Service vesterday defended its decision to bring the case, saying it had considered both the facts and the "public interest" in bringing the action very carefully.

It is understood that when the matter was first raised with the CPS there were suggestions that some of the men - whose age ranged from 17 to 55 - had been paid to take part, and that drugs had been used. There was no evidence of this

#### Vicar jailed for attacking wife

A Church of England vicar accused of try-ing to kill his wife in an apparently motive less hammer attack was yesterday jailed for

five years. The Rev Michael Golightly, 54, of Durham City, was acquitted of attempted murder by a jury at Newcastle Crown Court hut convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

The court was told that Enid Golightly, 55, almost died after being struck a single hlow with a 11/1b hammer while she was asleep in bed. The blow was of such force that fragments of bone were pushed 30mm. into her hrain. Golightly denied responsibility and his counsel claimed an undetected intruder could launched the attack.

#### Essex wild-cat alert

An expert in trapping dangerous animals yes-terday raised the possibility that a wild cat is roaming Essex woodlands.

Sightings of a creature in Brentwood could be the sign of a wild puma, according to hig-cats expert Quentin Rose, Essex police called him in to carry out an investigation of Vicarage Woods after people reported sightings of what appeared to be a lioness. After a search of the woods yesterday, Mr Rose concluded there was no evidence of a hig cat at that location, but conceded that there was evidence to suggest there could be wild cats in the area.

#### Happy landing

Two Britons whose aircraft was forced down by a jet fighter after straying into Russian military airspace were last night preparing to fly home.

Russian authorities earlier said Cliff. Davidson and Mark Graham Jeffreys would not be charged for encroaching on the Kaliningrad enclave, home of Russia's Baltic fleet. The Russians sent a fighter to bring the plane down after it was blown off-course by winds while flying over the Baltic en route to London. Kaliningrad is cut off from the rest of Russia and bordered by Lithuania and

#### Meningitis jab plan

All first year students due to study in Southampton will be immunised against meningitis after three freshers died from the disease there last year.

The programme of mass immunisation against group C meningitis has been recommended by Dr Mike Barker, the city's consultant in communicable diseases.

He believes the jabs are necessary "as a local response to a locally identified health

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# Write your own bloody headline.

Aninesty International: working worldwide for the release of prisoners of conscience. fair trials for political prisoners and an end to torture, extrajudicial executions, "disappearances" and the death penalty.

could touch

you?

No words - there are no words - to express what this Algerian woman is feeling. In this conflict children are killed in front of parents, people are blowtorched and howl like bagpipes, ordinary folk are caught in horror beyond imagining. You can do something to stop these things, but knowing yourself as you do, are you more likely just to turn the page? Even if there were words, what words

> On 27th August this year, a group of armed men entered Rais. the village of the woman in the picture. and killed about three hundred people. They spared neither women nor children. The victims died in ways too hideous to describe. But were we to catalogue each brutal detail, it would still be beyond our power to convey the horror of what was done. Words can't say it and photographs.

however gruesome, don't show it. When words lose power.

It is a filthy conflict in Algeria. Both Government forces and armed groups have committed atrocities.

The Government uses the gangs' atrocities to justify its massive repression of human rights, the armed groups use the repression to justify their atrociries.

The woman from Rais got caught in the middle.

We don't know precisely what loss she suffered. whether she saw her family murdered, her baby dashed to its death, her small daughrer disembowelled. her mother's head rolling in the dust.

All these things have happened, if not to this woman. to others just as uninvolved, helpless and anguished. The words on the picture come from the opening paragraph of Amnesty International's latest report on Algeria. We have become used to seeing words like these in our newspapers.

Shocking headlines no longer tights, you might as well say 'yes'. touch us. We're not moved, we resent being manipulated. Experience says that you'll read this page, turn over and forget it, because this is how you, like the rest of us, have learned to cope with clamouring ads.

Listen to what the children said.

Two children, sisters of 11 and 13, spoke about the night their parents were killed.

"We woke up at the noise; some armed men were bitting father with a shotgun. They pushed father into the kitchen and the others took mum out into the courtyard and tied her bands. They cut her throat. The other men called from inside the bouse and the one who slaughtered mum shouted: "Wan I'm finishing". We pulled mum into the house and closed her eyes and covered her with a blanket, and also covered father; he had also had his throat cut. We cried and screamed."

Reader, wake up. This isn't a game of words. It isn't some clever advertising agency trying to score a 'creative' coup. It's a plea, a big desperate one, for your help,

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Amnesty International was founded on the idea that ordinary people can make a difference in the world, can help to stop murder, torture and other abuse of human rights. Since our foundation in 1961, we have proved over and over and over that we can help.

#### Amnesty is international.

Do you dislike the idea of western liberals laying down the moral law to the rest of the world?

Good, so do we. Amnesty International is a worldwide organisation with members in just about every country on earth. In some places our members risk their lives to stand up for human rights. And people in that deadly danger are standing up for your human rights, whether or not you choose to recognise the fact.

#### Decades of broken promises.

After the Second World War, the world's nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then every single one of them has at some time broken its promise to defend and not abuse human rights.

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But only you can convince yourself that you want to stand up for other people's human rights.

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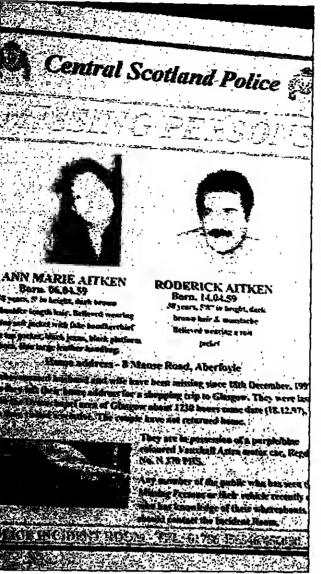
a blowtorch, is routinely used by the Algerian security forces to make suspects 'sing'.

Main picture: Distraught survior of a massacre carried out at Sidi Rais village by an armed group.

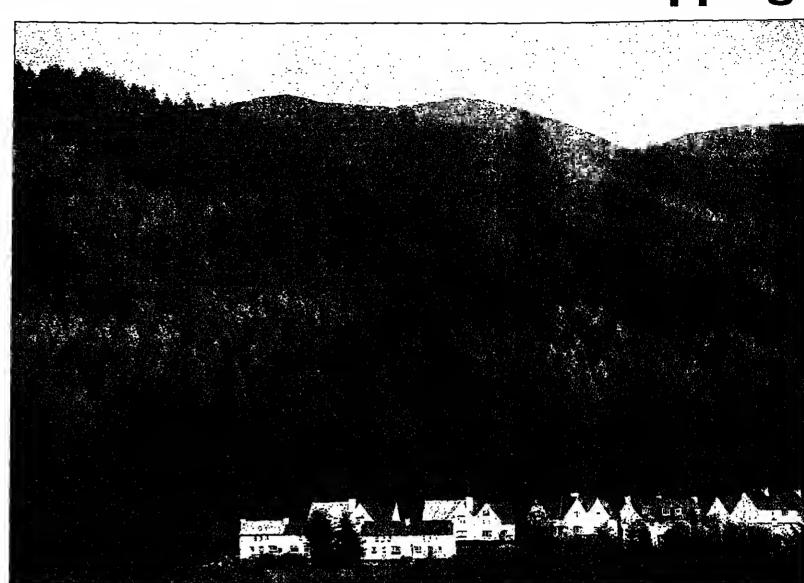


اعكنا من الاعل

## Mystery of couple who never came back from shopping



The village of Aberfoyle (right), where Roddy and Ann Marie Aitken lived when their disappearance before Christmas prompted a big police search (left). Their daughter, also named Ann Marie (below), does not hold out much hope that her parents are still Photographs: Tom Pilston



Helicopters, frogmen and dozens of police officers are involved in a massive hunt for a couple who disappeared 30 days ago while out shopping. Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, went to Scotland to try to unravel the mystery.

Roddy and Ann Marie Aitken seemed to have a lot to live for. Christmas was coming and they were about to spend two weeks with their 13-year-old son, Roddy, in Cyprus catching some winter sun.

They were, says their other child, Ann Marie; who turned 20 this week, loving parents who thought the world of their fami-. On 18 December they drove the 25 miles from their home in the tiny town of Aberfoyle, in central Scotland, to a Glasgow suburb to deliver Christmas cards to Roddy senior's parents, Jessie and Archie.

E E

Shortly afterwards they spoke to their daughter and a friend on their mobile phone to say they would be returning in an bour or so. Ann Marie recalled: "They said they were still doing some shopping and wouldn't be back for a while. We didn't talk long - mobiles are so expensive. "I got worried the next day but I didn't want to telephone anyone in case they just turned up. "I kept thinking they would be back tomorrow. I thought they must come home for Christmas Day. My wee brother went to his friends for Christmas. I sat here with my boyfriend and waited for the phone to ning." She waited until Boxing Day - eight forces throughout Britain have also been days after the disappearance - before her grandparents persuaded her to get the police involved. Speaking at the family home, where she is staying with her brother, she added: "I don't think they will be coming home now, its been a month without a trace - its just too long."

For the past fortnight a huge search op-

stunning countryside. Interpol and police But so far no bodies have been found, no burnt-out wreckage discovered, no telltale skid marks or car roof staring up from the bottom of a loch.

The Cyprus holiday, which had been paid for with £1,000 cash and was their first foreign trip in six years, remains unused, and the couple's hank accounts are un-

Rumours of underworld connections and contract killings have surfaced but detectives believe they are fantasy.

The police are haffled. Surely the bodies would have been found by now if it was an accident, and why would they run away at Christmas? Was this a murder or missing-persons inquiry? Were they looking for one or two people? Nothing makes

As part of the detective work the hunt for the two 38-year-olds shifted yesterday to London, where the family lived before moving to Aberfoyle seven years ago. The six-year stint down south in Fulham and later Sutton, in Surrey, where Roddy worked as a roofer, was the only time the family ventured out of Scotland.

Brought up amid the violent, sprawling Glasgow council estates of Drumchapel in

eration has been taking place among the north-west of the city, Roddy and Ann forest-covered peaks and along miles of Marie started dating at school, were martwisting road amid some of Scotland's most ried at 18 and parents a year later.

As a child Roddy was taken to the Trossachs, a wild, beautiful land of steepsided glens, snowy peaks and dark lochs, about 35 miles north of the Glasgow estates. When a chance came to swap their London council flat for ooe in safe and unexciting Aberfoyle, Perthshire, he grasped it.

But the Glaswegians did not fit into the small, close community. For one thing the parents did not work, relying mainly on benefits, and a disability allowance from a car accident in which Roddy injured his leg. Then there was the drinking, Roddy was barred from several pubs in the town after a number of alcohol-fuelled fights and arguments.

Neighbours said that they were "friend-

themselves to themselves", while one commented: "They were still quite new - seven years is a short time in Aberfoyle". They did most of their socialising in their old Glasgow haunts. On several occasions Roddy drove home along the back roads

after having one too many. In the past fortnight hundreds of miles of forest tracks have been meticulously searched by the police in case their hlue Vauxhall Astra slipped over the edge on that enforcers involved." December night.

So far the only clues are a 7pm sighting of them at an Asda store just outside Glasgow shortly after the visit to Roddy's parents, and the calls to a friend and to their daughter.

Shortly after the police went public a ance was linked to underworld connections.

most certainly nonsense. Roddy was apparently considered a "Ned" - a ducker and diver. But he was not known by Glasgow's criminal community and with a handful of convictions for minor drink-related offences it was hardly the stuff of The Godfather.

The officer in charge of case, Detective Chief Superintendent, John Ogg, said: "There are no indications whatsoever that there are drug harons or underworld

He added: "There seems to be a piece of the jigsaw missing. We feel there is someone, or some people with vital information they are withholding."

So are the police looking for a killer or runaways or both? As one officer indicated, we may never know: "This area is very tabloid newspaper claimed the disappear- hostile for anyone looking for a body, especially if hidden. You could search for

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## Virgin MegaSavers. | Spencer rebuffed over privacy law

The European Commission of Human Rights yesterday barred Earl Spencer from pursuing a privacy case involving his former wife. Lord Spencer had claimed UK law does not protect him from press intrusion. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, considers

The decision by Lord Spencer to go to the Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg was taken two years ago but yesterday's hearing seemed to come with impeccable timing.

the Implications.

Government to incorporate the Convention on Human Rights into UK law, the death of Lord Spencer's sister Diana, Princess of Wales, and the recent lurid coverage of the Earl's divorce case. His case was that despite a Press Complaints Commission condemnation of intrusive reporting three years ago of him and his then wife. Victoria Lockwood. British law gives him no effective remedy against the offending newspaper.

Although the PCC can, and did, condemn a newspaper for intrusion - in this case the News of the World - it cannot force compensation, nor can it prevent publication of an offending article.

But yesterday's quick rejection by the European Com-

After a few hours' deliberation. the commission ruled that the case should not go before the European Court of Human In theory, had the case gone to the European Court, a judgment against the Government would have forced ministers to bring in a statutory law of pri-

came as a surprise to some

lawyers - means that any

emerging law of privacy Britain

will depend on domestic judges.

vacy giving victims the right to damages and in some circumstances the right to stop damaging stories from being published. Ministers, however, who said they were "satisfied" with vesterday's decision, have said they have no such plans. The future of a privacy law now hangs on the decision of the

It followed a move by the Government to incorporate the human rights convention into British law. The Lord Chancellor, Lord

> Irvine of Lairg, has accepted that this is likely to lead to a judge-made law of privacy though both media and lawyers alike are concerned that this could lead to a haphazard development of the law. Dan Tench, a media lawver

for the London firm Love!! White Durrant, said the ruling did not mean there would be no judge-made privacy law, simply that it would not come from Strasbourg, "It seems the view of the commission is that it is for individual nations to balance the competing interests of freedom of the press and privacy."

## On yer bike offer evokes Tebbit memories

Norman Tebbit's controversial advice for the jobless to get on their bikes, as his father had once done in the hunt for elusive employment, could become reality for hundreds of jobless people in Cornwall.

The Employment Service is reviewing the transport problems faced by longterm unemployed people living in remote areas, and a Commons committee was told by a senior official this week that bicycles could be made available where no public transport options were viable.

The Government's New Deal programme for unemployed people, aged 18 to 24 and out of work for more than six months, was launched in Cornwall on 5 January, with a target of helping 900 people into work. A further project, to help 2,950 people aged 25 or over, out of work for longer than 12 months, will he started in June as part of the £3.5bn Welfare to Work programme.

An Employment Service spokeswoman said johless people were heing consulted on the problems they faced getting to and from potential workplaces, and a report was expected by next month.



Anthony Bevins Pedal power: Tony Blair and other EU leaders taking time out during last year's Amsterdam summit

## Blair snubs Brown over chairing welfare committee

The Prime Minister has snubbed Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a decision to stop him chairing the new ministerial group on welfare reform.

Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on a frost in Downing Street relations.

The Chancellor is on the spe-

ordered that whenever he cannot attend, his place as chairman is to be taken by Mr Prescott. An informed government

While Mr Blair has made

on Sunday, says Mr Brown be-

lieves he could have heaten Mr

Blair, hut that he decided to

The Prime Minister has said

publicly that there was no pact,

and his supporters say it is non-

source told The Independent over Mr Brown's recent

conduct.

judgement

written.

cial ministerial working group Chancellor, in which it is made on welfare reform - set up by clear that Mr Brown feels the Prime Minister this week to take charge of the crucial pol-

icy area - and John Prescott. regards him as a friend, but his the Deputy Prime Minister involvement in the hiography is not But Tony Blair has and his contribution to the débacle over lone parents' benefit had raised a doubt about his judgement. The sooner Mr. Brown and his colleagues "settled down", the better.

Yesterday, the Prime Minyesterday that the unusual ister maintained the theme decision to keep Mr Brown of his campaign for welfare out of the chair was quite reform with a reassurance deliberate, and an indication of that any change would "work the annoyance felt by No 10 with the grain of the British people".

Mr Blair said in an interview. with the BBC Radio 4's Today light of the new hiography of the programme that there was a continuing manifesto commitment to the universal state pen-"betrayed" by Mr Blair's sion, which would be uprated in decision to stand for the line with prices.

But he would not rule out a leadership in 1994, in breach of consideration of the future an alleged private pact, the Prime Minister's close place of the state pension in the welfare system for the future. friends are dismayed at what adding: "I'm not going to specis seen as a display of poor ulate on what is going to be in-25 years until we're ready to The hiography, written by come out with proposals upon Paul Routledge, Political Correspondent of The Independent

A government source said that should not be taken as a threat to abolish the state penstand aside out of a self-sacri- sion, any more than a ficial sense of duty to the suggestion of public-private partnership on welfare should be interpreted as a threat to introduce compulsory second pensions - even for those who could not afford them.

sense to argue that Mr Brown could have beaten Mr Blair The next stage of the proin 1994; history is being regramme, following consideration by the ministerial group, and a round-table review by the More damagingly, however, there is a strong feeling inside full Cabinet, will be publication No 10 that Mr Brown is actively of a Green Paper drafted by engaged in a campaign to suc- Frank Field, minister for welfare

#### ceed Mr Blair as leader - even though there is no vacancy - and Within the principles set out that campaign is damaging the in that paper - and subject to further public consultation - de-Chancellor's ability to work as part of the ministerial team. tailed proposals would then One authoritative source begio to emerge over the comtold The Independent that the ing year on the various specif-Prime Minister had a very high ic issues, like pensions and regard for Mr Brown, and still family benefits.

## Gulf veterans give back medals in protest over illness

In a poignant demonstration of their disgust at how they have been treated since the Guif War, dozens of men who fought against Saddam Hussein will today hand back their campaign medals. lon Burrell reports on how time is running out for many of the veterans of **Operation Desert** Storm.

The veterans will march slowly down Whitehall from Trafalgar Square before handing back their medals one by one on the steps of the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence.

The protest by upwards of 50 veterans, which coincides with the seventh anniversary of the end of the Gulf War, is expected to attract worldwide media interest, with camera crews from Russia and America among those in attendance. The veterans said yesterday

that although the medals were important to them, they needed to make a gesture which would make the public aware of their plight. Tony Flint, of the National

Gulf Veterans and Families Association (NGVFA), said that veterans were now dying at the rate of two a month.

During the war the troops were exposed to a multitude of chemicals in the form of vaccinations, anti-chemical warfare tahlets, pesticide sprays and possibly the fallout from a destroyed Iraqi chemical weapons dumo.

Among the symptoms they report are cancers, chronic fatigue syndrome, nervous disor- they don't do so lightly. ders and depression. Many have

committed suicide. Mr Flint said: "We are disHanding back the medals is the only way we can think of to highlight our situation. Nothing like this has happened before."

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He added: "We were proud to receive the campaign medals hut some of the other guys have already had to sell theirs off to make ends meet."

A letter will be presented to the MoD, complaining at the treatment of all British servicemen after they leave the armed forces.

Tomorrow veterans will lay wreaths at the Cenotaph in remembrance of comrades who died during the conflict and 160 wooden crosses will be left in memory of the veterans known by the NGVFA to have died since the war. The veterans' concerns that

they were not heing given enough support increased last week with the news that a leading Scottish scientist had been forced to turn to the American hillionaire Ross Perot to fund his research into Gulf War illnesses. Dr Goran Jamal, a consul-

tant at the Institute of Neurological Sciences at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital, has been unable to continue his much-valued work due to lack of government funding. He turned to Mr Perot because he had financed other Gulf War illness research in America.

British-based research into the conditions of the veterans is not expected to be ready for another two years.

The MoD insisted yesterday that the issue was being taken very seriously and that all was being done to try to help those who are ill.

A spokesman said: "The medals will be received with sadness. We realise that if people are going to make this gesture

"We are keen to meet them hut feel they are pushing at an open door, hecause the degusted and frustrated at the lack partment feels it is doing as of practical help we are given. much as it can. It's a shame."



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## **Grants freeze** pushes arts companies to the edge

Arts companies were yesterday said to be "on the edge of survival" as the Arts Council announced its grants for the coming year. David Lister, Arts News Editor, examines the figures and finds that they are not quite as bad as had been feared.

The outgoing Arts Council chairman, Lord Gowrie, yesterday condemned "the worst revenue crisis of my adult lifetime."

However, despite the dramatic words, the vast majority of arts companies received standstill grants rather than the big cuts that had been feared. And changes to National Lottery regulations mean that lottery money will shortly be able to be used for annual revenue funding in the arts.

The latest round of standstill lost £34m in real terms.

In one interesting aside, sury of still "taking revenge on Treasury minister and, according to Lord Gowrie, actually persuaded an arts minister to ask for more money.

Lord Gowrie said: "The vengeance is almost Sicilian. I hope Sir Terence Burns [the Treasury permanent secretary] has got over that period of ire."

Questions also remain about some of the organisations the Arts Council funds. It gives

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should be funded by the taxpayer. Lord Gowrie replied: It's a knotty question, that. There's a problem that many publications are in the hands of commercial organisations. But the LRB does advance the cause of literature."

In the new set of grants, the big, nationally funded companies suffered worse from the £1.5m cut, from £186.1m to £184.6m, as the Arts Council tightened its bell.

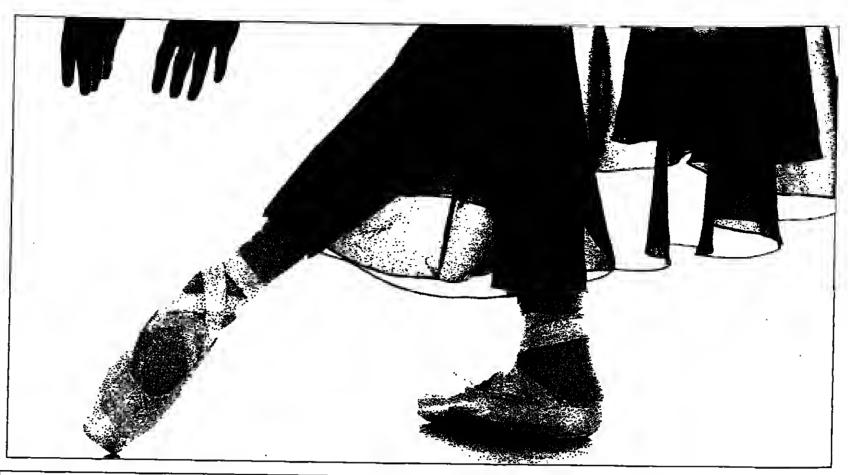
The South Bank Board, Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Royal Opera all lost cash as their multi-million grants were too substantial to be spared the cuts, the Arts Council said.

More than £112,000 has been trimmed from the South Bank Board's £13.3m allocation, £100,000 from the Royal Ballet's £6.56m, £54,720 from the Birmingham Royal Ballet's £5.47m, £31,200 from the English National Ballet, £9,800 from the Northern Ballet Theatre and £39,970 from the Royal Opera grants are the culmination of company's £7,99m. But most five years without an increase in arts organisations will get the funds from the Government to same in cash terms as last year. the Arts Council, meaning it has and some organisations will get slightly more.

The deht-ridden English Na-Lord Gowrie accused the Treational Opera escapes cuts because of a stabilisation plan, and David Mellor" referring to the the National Theatre (£11.1m) time when Mr Mellor was a and Royal Shakespeare Theatre (£8.47m) also have standstill funding.

Acting secretary general Graham Devlin said: "Although we hope the forthcoming changes to the lottery rules will allow more flexibility for the arts funding system, they will not solve all our problems."

The Arts Council would carry out a review into the organisations it supported and its the literary periodical, the Lon-funding methods, he said, "Most don Review Of Books, £28,104. of the companies on the list are nal, on sale in the high streets, right at the edge of survival."



Point taken: Regional and national ballet companies were among those to suffer cuts as a result of the Arts Council's revenue

Photograph: Laurie Lewis



## ENJOY.

(IT WON'T BE AROUND FOR LONG.)

## Ministers face crunch over funds for Tube

needs money desperately. But months of Whitehall wrangling has produced nothing. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, examines the looming clash between John Prescott and Gordon

London Underground

With two forthcoming White Papers, on transport and the capital's future government, not be delayed.

Brown.

year it will receive £300m for likely to wear this. its "core" operations. That is £50m short of the amount bank hired by LU, has come needed just to stop the rot. To clear the "investment backlog", the service needs more than £1bn.

With no public cash available, three sets of city experts have been drafted in to help mercial terms". solve the problem of how to inject private capital into the Street appears ready to "bash Tube. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister whose brief covers transport, transport, opposes state conhired Price Waterhouse to find an answer. The accountants recommended splitting the infrastructure into four parts and selling 51 per cent

stakes to the private sector. Mr Prescott disagreed. He had in mind two options. One would be to relax the Treasury borrowing requirements - allowing a public sector Tube to borrow money from the City without adding operating profit of £170m a solutely no sense."

year, it has the money to borrow with. Other cities - notably New York - use this method to fund subway schemes, but the Treasury is not impressed.

Another Prescott plan was to lease all the infrastructure - the tunnels and the tracks - to one company for 30 years. The only firm big enough handle that large a contract is Railtrack, which offered ministers a minority stake in the company in return.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Treasury minister dealing with Mr Prescott, turned to four big husinessmen. They advised Mr Robinson to split a decision on the Tube can- the Underground infrastructure into three compa-The Tube, which ferries nies and franchise them and more than 1.6 million people the train operators - such as every day, is falling apart the Victoria Line - to the priand in dire need of cash. Next vate sector. Mr Prescott is un-

> Lazards, the merchant up with an analysis to hury arguments that advocate any break-up. The bankers instead propose either a privatised monopoly or a public one that operates "on com-

> Meanwhile, Downing heads together". Geoff Norris, the No 10 policy adviser on trol and favours a quick selloff. A decision has been slated for the end of this month. Any move to sell-off the

underground will anger the unions. Jimmy Knapp. general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, said: "I find it astonishing that when the media is full of stories condemning privatised rail services, Treasury officials are advocating to the national debt. As the the same policy for London public sector body makes an Underground. It makes abFIXED RATES FROM

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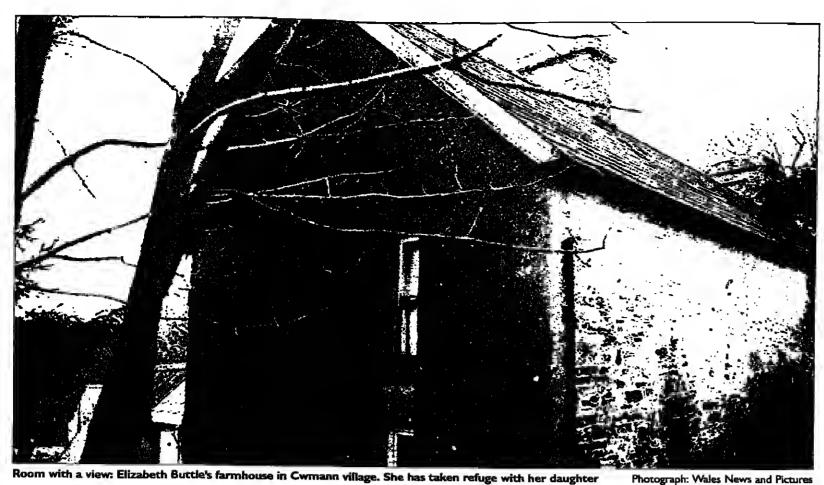
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## Oldest mother brings media circus to quiet corner of Wales

Somehow woodcarver Nancy Hemming had managed to miss out on all the gossip. Richard Smith visited her hilltop cottage overlooking the ruggedly beautiful sheep farming village Cwmann in west Wales, which just happens to be the home of Elizabeth Buttle, Britain's oldest mum.

Since it was revealed that a 60year-old farmer had given birth two months ago to a boy called Joe - nicknamed "Skippy" -

never before and Cwmann has him-for Christmas. Alth become a far-flung scenic I'm his uncle he is just like an setting for the latest media

But Nancy Hemming had remained blissfully unaware, un-til yesterday. "Oh well, that's nice," she said. "I don't have a television and I don't read the papers. I just listen to Radio Four so I hadn't heard anything about it. But I think she must have an amazing amount of courage to start having children again at 60."

Birth is always a prime topic on everyone's lips in Cwmann at this time of year. But the talk is usually about the offspring thousands of speckle-faced ewes will produce when lambing gets into full swing during March.

Red kites and buzzards still soar above the hilltops but most of the rain-sodden fields are deserted because farmers have put their flocks indoors to protect them from the worst ravages of

Villagers struggled to re-member the last time Cwmann hit the headlines: a Land-Rover was used in a ram-raid at the local garage and an RAF jet crashed into a nearby mountain. But the higgest scandal involved a local farmer who was ailed for sexual activities with donkey and some pigs.

Cwmann (pop 600) stands

950 feet above sea level and boasts a primary school, a village post office and four pubs. Most people find work on the farms, at a large slaughter house in nearby Llanbydder, or at the light industrial units in Lampeter. Yesterday, Elizabeth Buttle

was still staying ont of the limelight at her 40-year-old daughter Belinda Pleavin's home four miles away. But a member of her family claimed she had sold her story to the News of the World for £100,000. She keeps horses, cattle and

sheep on the 97-acre spread. Her grandson, Nick Pleavin, 19, said: "The baby has complete- for five hours in winter and take ly changed my gran's life. She much jouier now. "The baby sleeps in the bed

with her. She started off breastfeeding him but he drinks milk from a bottle now. He is quite chubby and doesn't cry much. His hair started off blonde but it's going a bit ginger now.

"She is very proud of Joey He has a little yellow teddy bear in his cot which my gran bought and have a small baby."

tle brother to me.

'My youngest Matthew is five and mura given gran the babygrows is a hard worker who has gi ed all her life. She was offer a lot of money by the paper a you can do what you like will

"I know she wants to get laser treatment for her eyes in Russia which will cost her £3,000."

There was no sign of the baby's father, Peter Rawstrom, 58, who runs a fodder merchants business with his wife Vera, 56 - mother of his four other children - from their home in Llangybi, five miles

from Cwmann. But the reporters, photographers and television crews, who have made their base at the Tafarn Jen inn on the edge of the village, were still looking.



Elizabeth Buttle: Very proud of baby Joe

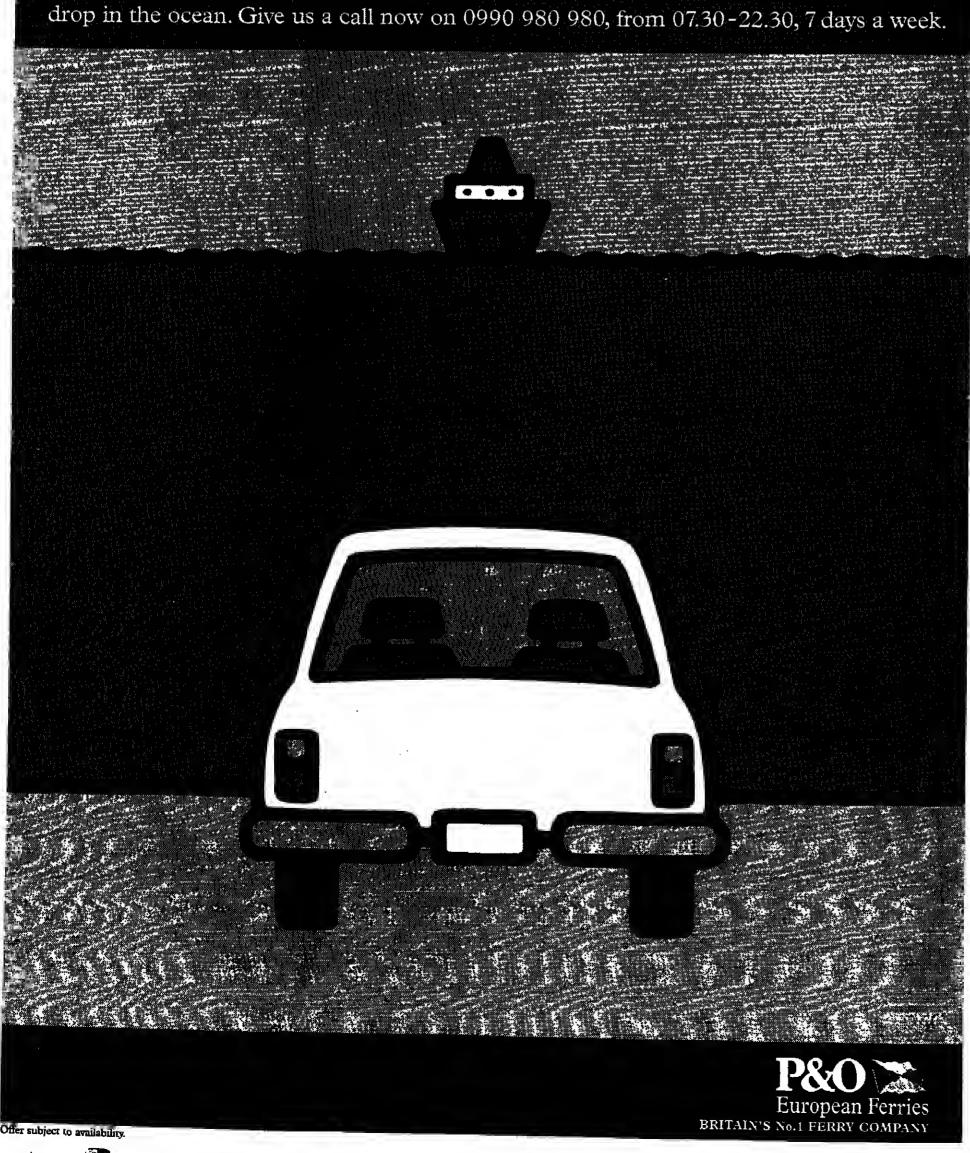
Judith and Tom Newman who moved from Croydod a year ago when they bought the pub,

said it had made their week. "Some days we can sit here 78p but on Wednesday our takings were £300." said Mrs Newman. "Nobody believed Liz was pregnant at first. Some people knew and others didn't. People were thinking, is she or

"Liz has always been a very private person and an extremely hard worker. I admire her. As and shows him off to everyone. a woman on your own you have to be tough to run a hill farm

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Trial of strength: Richard Branson (left) and Guy Snowden arriving at the High Court for yesterday's hearing

## Trial halted as rape case girl breaks down

and indecently assaulted by a girl. gang of classmates repeatedly broke down yesterday during the Old Bailey trial of the four boys she claims attacked her.

Giving evidence over a video link on the second day of the hearing, she hecame increasingly distressed and tired amid crossexamination by lawyers defending the schoolboys.

At one stage, while being questioned by Steven Kay QC about the alleged incident at their London primary school in May last year, she began sohhing uncontrollably. The hearing was adjourned several times to allow her to have a hreak.

She was told by the judge, Mrs Justice Bracewell: "I don't want you to get upset. Mr Kay and others have to ask questions and I am here to see the questions are fair. If they are not I'll stop them.

"I know it may he upsetting for you when sometimes you are asked about something you don't agree about. Try not to get

The two 10-year-old boys standing trial at the Old Bailey for allegedly raping the girl, then aged nine, are believed to he the youngest-ever rape defendants in Britain. They are also accused with two other boys, aged 10 and

The prosecution case is that they dragged her into lavatories at their school, forcibly stripped her and then fondled her before three boys took it in turns to rape her as the others looked on and

A third hoy alleged to have raped her could not be prosecuted as he was nine at the time and under the age of criminal re-

hearing, the girl told the court she had previously been raped and sexually attacked by a group of men in Jamaica. She said she was raped in the home of a man and three of his friends before she came to England four years ago. She spoke haltingly as she hegan her evidence.

She was being cared for by her aunt and grandmother in Jamaica while her mother was in England.

The court was not told how old the girl was at the time, but she said she was not attending school when a neighbour, aged about 30, took her to his house and raped and beat her.

She said: "He looked like he was mad."

Mr Kay, defending one of the boys, said: "Did the man harm you?" Looking down, the girl

A 10-year-old girl allegedly raped 11, of indecently assaulting the whispered: "Yes, sometimes. Sometimes he took girls to his

Asked what the man did, she said: "He got his friends and they hurt us and after they hurt us he heat us and he hurt us with his finger and he slapped us round the face. He hit and hit us and beat

us with sticks." When it was repeatedly suggested by counsel that she had made the rape allegation up she said: "I told you everything 1 At the start of yesterday's know and everything I remember

and everything I did."

She told the jury: "I don't

make up stories." The accused sat with their legal teams and their families. One of the boys occupied the time during much of the cross-examination of his alleged victim by using a legal notepad to sketch reporters taking down the girl's evidence.

Another sucked his thumh. The morning session was adjourned early after the girl told the court: "I am getting upset because

The girl again hroke down just minutes after the court re-

sumed for the afternoon. Just 15 minutes into the session, the girl began crying, saying:

"I'm tired." The trial was adjourned until

## My reputation is everything, Branson tells libel jury

Richard Branson told the High Court in London yesterday that he had brought his libel action because of the millions of people who put their trust in him.

Camelot over an alleged bribe in the race 10 win the UK lot- tember 1993 in an attempt to get tery franchise, said that in life "all you have is your reputation both personally and in business".

their trust in me every year, who put their lives with me in flying on planes and going on trains and who invest their money with us. And I think people have to trust you. If there's ever any question mark over your integrity, I think it's very important that one defends that."

Mr Branson is suing Guy Snowden, the head of US lottery company GTech - which and its PR director, Robert and quite hurtful".

Savers.

Rendine, for claiming he made the hribery allegation when he knew there was insufficient evidence to support it.

Mr Snowden, 52, is alleged The 47-year-old entrepre- to have made the offer at a lunch neur, who is suing a director of at Mr Branson's home in Holland Park, west London, in Septhe Virgin boss to withdraw his consortium's rival bid.

litigation was not another "Vir-fectly innocent explanation. gin product" aimed at commercial profit or publicity. "There is nothing to gain except getting the truth out."

He had issued his writs because he had been accused of heing a liar "in the strongest possible terms". And he added: holds 22 per cent of Camelol - "I thought that was unpleasant

Cross examined by Richard Ferguson QC, for Mr Snowden, Mr Branson denied that he had "embellished" his account of what he claimed Mr Snowden had said to him in order to

> strengthen his case. "There's nothing that needs strengthening in this case. I do not embellish things."

Mr Ferguson suggested that For his part, he is suing Mr by the time the litigation was "In husiness I have literally Branson for making the alle- launched. Mr Branson had reprogramme in December 1995. conversation which he had writ-Mr Branson told Mr Justice 1en in a notebook on the day of Morland and the jury that the the lunch was capable of a per-

> Mr Branson replied: "t had no difficulty whatsoever in remembering the words that Mr Snowden told me at that lunch. It was not every day that you got attempted to be bribed.

"I was absolutely and utterclear about what Mr Snowden was saying to mc."

The case continues.

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## Turkish money fails to blot out the stain of genocide

Turkey's effort to erase the memory of its genocide of the Armenians has suffered a setback in the United States. The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) has refused to allow Ankara to fund a chair in Ottoman studies, because the Turkish government attached conditions to their \$1m offer that would have forced scholars to ignore the

It must have come as a shock to the Turks, Already, they have endowed Princeton, Georgetown, Indiana and the University of Chicago with nearly identical provisions - that scholars holding a chair must have used Turksh archives and must maintain "close and cordial relations with academic circles in Turkey". Anyone, of course, who acknowledges the Armenian Holocaust is not going to have any kind of cordial relations with Turkish academics, let alone access to Ottoman archives. So when UCLA turned down the

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offer from Ankara, it was poured into the campus. One, something of a precedent.

Nuzhet Kandemir, the Turkish ambassador to the United (£150,000) for a chair in UCLA's History Department, in a cheque presented to Irene Bierman of the university's Near-East studies department. But Armenian scholars im-

1915 massacres.

mediately pointed out that access to Ottoman archives essential for any scholar taking up Turkey's endowed post - was tightly controlled by the Turkish government and denied to anyone critical of Turkey's treatment of the Armenians, or of current human rights violations in the country. Ambassador Kandemir was then identified as a diplomat who had sent letters to Jewish organisations claiming that the Armenian Holocaust unlike Hitler's extermination of the Jews - was a hoax. The 1915 bloodbath - in

which hundreds of thousands of Armenian men were hutchered by Turkish forces while their wives and children were dispatched in equal numbers into hands of rapists or the Turkish gendarmerie - is a fact of hisexcept Turkey. In the desert of what is now northern Syria, the Turks even invented the world's first gas chamber - an underground cave containing thousands of prisoners into which smoke was funnelled by Turkish policemeo - to complete their genocide. "Who now remembers the Armenians?" Hitler is said to have asked before commeocing his genocide of the Jews of Europe. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 millioo Armenians had died. The Turks claim that their Armenian citizens were victims of a civil war.

When UCLA initially accepted Turkey's offer - initial discussions were, lamentably, held

signed by 57 scholars and writers, condemned the proposal because the "Turkish government States, had already made a prohibits intellectual freedom, down-payment of \$250,000 outlaws enquiry about its country and its history, incarcerates its intellectuals and has one of the worst human rights records in the world today".

A petitioo criticising the post at UCLA was signed by Norman Mailer, Kurt Voonegut, Arthur Miller and Susan Soutag. Armenians whose grand-parents or great-grandparents were victims or survivors of the genocide, were also

#### BY ROBERT **FISK**

prominent in the campaign, although the UCLA faculty's vote - 18-17 in favour of shunning the endowment - was a

Prominent among the protesters was Levon Marashlian, a history professor of Armenian origin at Glendale Com-

munity College. The endowment, he said, was "funded by a foreign government with one of the worst human rights records in the world, a government which persecutes writers and journalists and oppresses millions of its Kurdish citizens, a government which promotes official history through its state-sponsored Turkish Historical Society. The push to establish this chair is part of a campaign to deny the Armenian genocide ..."

Professor Marashlian, it might be added, failed to point out that many of the Armenian women and children driven into the desert in 1915 were in fact violated or killed by the grandfathers of the same Turkish behind closed doors - petitions Kurds for whom Mr Marashlian

UCLA academics had alread witnessed the results of Prince ton's acceptance of a Ruckish en downent. Princeton Universit accepted \$750,000 (£462,000) from Turkey and hired Heath Lowry as professor. Mr Lowry, it subsequently transpired, had shost-written the Turkish ambassador's denunciation of a scholar for writing about "the so-called Armenian genocide". At UCLA itself, a conference on Armenia called in May of last year by history professor Richard Hovannisian was attended by the Turkish consulgeneral in Los Angeles, Hayret Yalav, who said he wished to rebut "Armenian falsifications" about the 1915 Holocaust. Since three of Mr Yalav's predeces-California in the Seventies and early Eighties by an Armenian extremist group, the US State Department demanded that all conference guests be searched. was a form of intimidation deliberately brought about by the

Turkish consul's atteodance. Professor Hovannisian told The Independent yesterday that despite the UCLA vote, the issue was not dead. "We've been told that the Turkish money might now go to one of three other places - to our sister campus at UC Berkeley, to the University of Washington or Ohio State University, all of which had expressed interest in the chair," he said. "The Turks may now even try to establish the fund in another branch of our university."

US Congresswoman Esteban Torres also had some pertineot questions to ask UCLA when she wrote to an academic newspaper last month: "If Adolf Hitler had wanted to endow a chair of German studies, or if Saddam Hussein wanted to would

## Court ends political career of Islamic party's leader

Turkey's constitutional court vesterday outlawed the Islamhased Welfare Party and banned its leader, former prime minister Necmettin Erbakan, from political leadership for five years.

"The court decided to close the Welfare Party because of evidence confirming its actions against the principles of the secular republic," court chairman Ahmet Necdet Sezer said.

The attorney-general had accused the biggest party in parliament of threatening the official secularist order after attempting to boost the role of Islam in public life during a year at the head of the country's first Islamist-led government.

Mr Erbakan spent a stormy year as prime minister until his coalition collapsed last June in an anti-Islamist campaign inspired by the secularist army.

The court banned six top Islamist MPs from political leadership for five years. "The court voted unani-

mously that Necmettin Erbakan .. should be forbiddeo from heing a founding memher, administrator or auditor of another party for a period of five years, Mr Sezer said.

Mr Erhakan earlier held Minister. Mesut Yilmaz, in an deputy and aide to Mr Erbakan



Erbakan: Former prime minister now out of politics

apparent attempt to avoid a ban on him by means of a legal loophole under which he could possibly stand for re-election as an independent MP.

Welfare's assets will now automatically be seized by the led by Mr Erbakan were also closed in the wake of military coups in 1971 and 1980.

Senior members of Welfare condemned the move. "This decision has no relation to justice, it is a purely political decision," said the party's deputy and former justice minister, Sevket Kazan.

"This decision casts a shadow over Turkish democracy," talks with the secularist Prime said Abdullah Gul, a Welfare

"It is questionable whether justice is independent in Turkey." Mr Erbakan said he would

appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. The decision to close Welfarel by the constitutional court will definitely go the European Court of Hnman Rights," he told a news conference in parliament.

In his nearly 30-year political journey to press for a stronger role for Islam in Turkish society, Mr Erbakan survived party closures, a coup, jail and exile. The latest hlow, however, could mark his finale.

"He may not be active in polities but he will remain our hero who fought for democracy," said Mr Gul.

With the mixture of Islamic and Western styles, Mr Erbakan symbolises the conundrum of treasury. Two previous parties many Turks stuck between the values of East and West. His Versace silk ties and French and Italian suits became a trademark. But his wife and two daughters cover their heads in accordance;

with Islamic tradition. - -Mr Erbakan also displayed strong political pragmatism, at lowing him to appease the bardline Islamists in his party while not totally alienating the military and other protectors of Turkey's secular policies.

- Reuters, Ankara

## in Saudi Arabia

born alive.

The babies, born on Wednes-Abha obstetric hospital in Aseer, 750 miles south of spokesman John Mills. Riyadh, the Okaz daily said.

The father, Abdullah Mohammed Ali, 55, was quoted as pregnancy, but we're ecstatic and can't wait for them to join cern, he said. their brothers and sisters at

#### A Saudi woman has give birth Top United Nations officials to seven babies - four boys and are discussing sending humanthree girls. It is only the third itarian aid to help victims of the set of septuplets known to be massacres in Algeria. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, is conday, are in good health in the sidering with senior UN col-

leagues what can be done, said

Despite the Algerian government's insistence that the unrest and massacres are a purely saving: "We didn't know of the internal affair, Ms Robinson is oumber of bahies during the convinced that the current situation is of international con-

> numbers of people killed, whole madan on 30 December. - AP, Riyadh communities devastated by

### Septuplets born UN could aid survivors of Algerian massacres

Mills said. but declined to elaborate

these attacks, there is a need bumanitarian assistance," Ma He said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the head of the UN Childreo's Fund were involved in the talks,

further. Algeria said on Thursday it had agreed to a visit starting on Monday by three junior ministers from the European Union, shocked at the slaughter of about 1,100 men, women and children since the start of the "When you have very large Muslim holy month of Ra-

# Miners man the barricades in a losing battle against cuts

The coal miners of Asturias, in northern Spain, are demonstrating against government plans to cut subsidies to the industry. They fear that their jobs will go the same way as those of miners across Europe, as the once-mighty industry

Bienvenido Rodriguez, 46, a miner for more than half his life, hurried to the barricade in Figaredo just south of Mieres, the heartland of Asturian coalfields, where the pits have been strikebound since Boxing Day. He frowned as the sound of rubber bullets and smoke canisters fired by the Civil Guard cracked round the little town.

"We are very angry and frustrated. This used to be a rich, prosperous region. Now there's nothing. I cao't tell you how many strikes I've fought. But I think this will be the last I'll see." Despite his militancy. Rodriguez, a member of the Workers' Commissions union, was pessimistic. "The government will win. They always do." He hacked a deep glaucous cough. "We've been losing battles for decades, and when

#### BY ELIZABETH **NASH**

we lose this one, our community will die." In what remains of Europe's publicly owned pits, the miners of Asturias are the last outpost of a once mighty force that fuelled the industrial revolution and invented the principle of workers' solidarity. Pioneers of militant trade unionism, they have made governments tremble for more than a hundred years.

In October 1934, when conservatives won elections in the shortlived Spanish republic, the Asturian miners rose up and declared a revolutionary soviet. They were the only workers to mount convincing strikes in the Sixties against the dictator Franco, who militarised the pits and forced the miners to the coalface at gunpoint. They fought their political allies, the ruling Socialists, in hitter struggles in 1991 against the closure of more than half the region's 23 pits. In a workforce 96 per cent unionised, strikers were so militant that they harricaded their own union executive in the pit over the Christmas of 1991. But that struggle, like all those of recent years, was defeated.

Yesterday morning, while the moon was still high, strikers strewed flaming pit props and upturned coal wagons across Asturias's spanking new motorway to Madrid for the 13th day running, trying to make the region a no-go area. At Figaredo, the Civil Guard riot squad pushed protesters back from the road, across the narrow-gauge railway that runs alongside it, and forced them up the slope opposite the station.

Throughout the morning they fired rubber bullets the size of golf balls and canisters of tear gas to keep the pickets at bay.



hurning chicken feathers.

vesterday wore black ribbons in mourning. Mounting tension all week increased when talks in Madrid hetween the miners' unions, the state coal company, Hunosa, and the government adjourned in the early hours of yesterday to resume on Thursday. Two miners were hurt and one arrested in actions yesterday throughout the coalfields which in many cases seem to have slipped the unions' control.

Asturian coal is of poorish quality, high in gases and sulphur, and pit machinery is outdated. As recently as 1995, 25 miners died in Dante-esque explosions of grisu, the deadly mixture of methane and air. after warning systems failed. Coal from South Africa or Poland costs a sixth of what it costs to extract it from Asturias's complex, where facework is mostly still manual.

Hunosa employs some 10,000, compared with 18,500 ten years ago and 26,000 in 1967 wheo loss-making private pits were nationalised. It lost 45bn pesetas (£200m) last year, leading cynics to conclude that Hunosa would save money by closing the pits and

made little impact against the riot shields. laying off the workforce on full salary. Con- its word. Luis Angel Vasquez Maseda, 36, Some of us took refuge in the station har sumers and industry meanwhile complain to escape the hitter smoke that stank of at the inflated cost of coal-fired electricity. The conservative Popular Party gov-On Monday, a miner building a barri- ernment wants to pull the plug and initially cade died when a car a hit him, and some sought to withdraw the state subsidy by 2002.

Mohilisations in 1996 and pressure from PP-controlled regional authorities. who feared an explosion of social grisu on their own doorstep, forced the government to grant a reprieve until 2005. Plans for Thatcher-style instant closures were quietly ruled out. None the less, vaunted pronothing, and the other major industry, iron and steelmaking, closed down long ago. In May, a deal was struck to cut coal out-

put from 25m to 2.1m tons, give 4,000 workers early retirement, and issue some 1,000 new contracts by 2001. But the European Commission, ultimate provider of the subsidy, wants a cut to 1.5m tons and no new contracts, and the government now seeks to renegotiate. "Next Wednesday the ministers go to Brussels to get their orders before meeting us on Thursday," said Mr Rodriguez, with disgust. "We know we are losing, but we must fight to salvage as much as we can."

Miners' unions insist that, despite their reputation as hardliners, they want dialogue. and that the government has reneged on

on the executive of the Workers' Commissions mining federation, says: "We signed a deal with the government in May after 14 months of talks, agreeing a framework for negotiating a trauma-free reduction in subsidy. But now they want to reopen the whole thing. We want them to stick by the deal they signed in May."

Mr Vasquez Maseda, a picador (faceworker), went down the mine at 19. He has the taut, hulky shoulders of someone who has wielded the 6.5kg mechanical pick for jects for alternative employment came to 17 years. "You have to work with one hand, ... with the other you hold on to the wooden supports built up to the coalface above."

mechanism. Miners looked out for each other because of the risks of instant death. "My father died in an accident at 49 in ... when did Franco die? Yes, 1975. When a neighbour is hurt, we are all hurt." But he, like others on the barricades, recognises that solidarity and militancy are not enough to defend jobs. "We don't want to send our sons down

the mine. But we worry because more than half our youngsters have no work. There is nothing. They'll live at home with dad, off his pension, and when he dies they'll pack their bags and go." So you face extinction? Mr Vasquez Maseda gave a level stare. "That's a strong word," he said after Solidarity, he says, emerged as a survival a pause. But he didn't disagree.

#### INDUSTRY IN

#### DECLINE

In 1920, one and a quarter million British men worked down the pits. The figure today is only 18,000. This is not simply a British development. All over Europe mining industries are a fraction of the size they once were.

There are just over i00,000 mlners in Western Europe now, a fifth of the number in 1970. Mechanisation reduced the need for staff, as did cheap foreign coal. Electricity companies, once major users of coal, turned to (much cheaper) gas to run their generators. Technological advance removed the need for coal to heat homes or support industry, much of which has changed from manufacturing to services.

In Spain, coal mining employs only half the number of people it did just seven years ago. France too has experienced a sharp decline in an industry in which several generations of a family could once be assured of a job.

The German coal industry had fared better until recent years, because of an agreement between the mining companies and the government, which did its best to ensure that pit closures would not lead to mass unemployment.

This seems to have succeeded; the unemployment rate in Germany II per cent, and is slightly lower in the mining areas. Germany now has the lion's share of Europe's miners, with 78,000. though this is projected to fall by a half

Belgium has seen the end of its coal industry. In 1970 it employed 25,000 miners out of a population of about 8 million. All its pits are now closed. All the above figures include only those people who actually work as miners. "For every person employed in open-cast or colliery mines in Britain, there are another two working In support industries such as equipment manufacturing, driving and management," says Stewart Oliver of British mining giant RJB Mining.

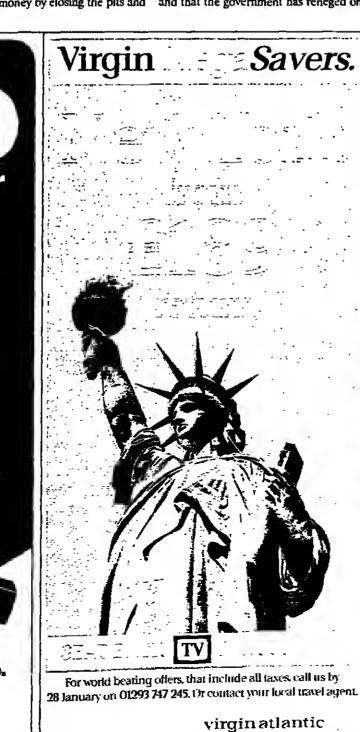
This is a view supported by the European Solid Fuels Association, its director, Jean van der Stichelen, said: "The total number of staff in mining, including surface people and clerks, is roughly one and a half or two times the number of miners." Even so, this means the total is about 250,000 throughout Europe; the same number as worked underground in Britain only 20 years ago.

- Gidon Freeman

## cal career leader

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## Montreal struggles out of a modern-day ice age

Eastern Canada is slowly returning to normal after a huge ice storm. Nearly a million people have been left without electricity, and thousands have been stranded.

Dazed Quebeckers, no strangers to ferocious winters, are still shaking their heads in disbelief. Out of the blue, their normal, sophisticated 20th-century life has simply been suspended and they have been returned, literally, to the ice age.

At the worst stage, 3 million people, half the entire population of Quebec, were plunged into darkness and cold as the power system collapsed. Montreal, the second largest city in Canada, of more than 2 million inhahitants, became a ghost-town as the entire downtown commercial and business centre was suddenly blacked out. Thousands of office workers stumbling out in shock onto surreally dark streets found that the metro had also ground to a halt, its power shorted. For once, apocalyptic hanner headlines reading "c'est l'enfer" ("it's hell") in local papers were entirely justified.

Now, 13 days after the start of the "storm of the century", life, at least in major urban areas, is slowly and patchily starting to return to a semblance of normality. But 350,000 households - more than a million people - in Quebec (and thousands more in New Brunswick and Eastern Ontario), are still without light, water or heat.

This is particularly serious as temperatures have plummeted to as low as minus 20C and tens of thousands have had to evacuate their freezing homes for temporary shelters in schools, gyms, synagogues and libraries, heated by generators - and they still don't know when they can return home.

The devastation is awe-inspiring: some 600 giant transmission towers have crumpled like giant toys, while tens of thousands of broken pylons and electrical poles litter the snow-covered ground in every direction. Snapped, ice-cocrusted cables trail and loop across roads still blocked with branches and trees that toppled under the sheer weight of the ice.

A freak five days of freezing rain coated power lines with up to four inches of ice. many times more weight than they could support. And as they collapsed and short-

ed, they overloaded other parts of the system which also blew, in a domino effect.

At one stage, four out of five links of the so-called "ring of power" surrounding Montreal, which supplies the city's electricity, collapsed. The entire city and surrounding area came within a hair's breadth of being blacked out, according to Lucien Bouchard, the Premier.

They have still not been repaired, making the whole system highly vulnerable, even though some temporary ancillary lines have now been hastily set up. But this fragility has meant that most businesses, factories and stores and all schools, universities and government offices have remained closed for a second week.

The Premier appealed to husinesses to stay closed until last Thursday to prevent the system overloading (as happened again on Monday). Hydro-Quebec, the company that runs the power network, is still

#### BY SUSIE **MORGAN**

rationing electricity by "powershedding" (prolonged cuts), to conserve energy unil more lines can be restored.

But by far the worst-affected area is Montreal's densely populated South Shore and areas further south, dubbed the "triangle of darkness", where thousands of households, and entire sizeable lowns, are still cut off.

Nearly 10,000 Canadian troops have been drafted in to help with one of the country's worst natural disasters. General Maurice Baril, the armed forces chief, compared the scene of devastation on the South Shore to "Sarejevo without the bullets".

Hydro Quebec workers, hattling round the clock to restore power with the help of the army and of American crews who have a bed - and thousands are working as volbeen called in from as far away as Connecticut, say the damage to electrical towers, pylons and power lines is so had that the grid infrastructure will have to be completely rebuilt, rather than just repaired.

American workers battling in Arctic conditions say they are appalled at the conditions and at the extent of the damage. "I've know when I can".

never in 40 years in this job seen anything like it." said one whose truck was practically covered with an American flag.

Now police and troops are making urgent door-to-door searches for people. especially the elderly, who are still staying in their freezing homes. They are trying to persuade them to leave for shelters, afraid of the very real danger of hypothermia in the savage cold (there have already been several deaths).

There are also grave dangers from carbon monoxide poisoning as people have been desperately trying to heat their homes with unsuitable devices like portable barbecues. Already an astounding 600 people have been hospitalised after falling ill from the insidious, odourless gas, and nine have died.

Meanwhile, the troops, the higgest number ever mobilised in peacetime, have been given police powers to patrol blackedout evacuated areas to prevent loouing and vandalism and to make arrests.

At times Montreal seems to be on a war footing - an impression reinforced by military helicopters landing uniformed troops in city suburbs and military trucks trundling down the snow and ice-clogged streets.

The sense of crisis is reinforced by daily live broadcasts by police, security and Hydro-Quebec officials, and by Premier Lucien Bouchard, giving crisis updates, warnings, advice, and help - and blanket coverage of the storm on television and radio which has totally taken over from normal programming.

Practical advice - helplines for those worst affected, and for the luckier citizens to donate blankets, food and provide beds and shelter - provides a real lifeline. So, too, do addresses for shelters and for cafés and restaurants offering free food and hot drinks, and hotels offering to put people up at cut rates.

Hearteningly, there has been a tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support - 15 offers for every one person needing unteers at shelters where, after nearly two weeks, people are exhausted, stressed, fractious and depressed. Some refuges house as many as 2,000 people, including children and even sometimes pets.

"I just want to go home," is the refrain heard everywhere, "hut I can't and I don't



A woman making her way past huge blocks of ice in downtown Montreal this week

## Republicans in bid to repair rift as abortion returns to US agenda

Abortion is back on the US political agenda, with a damaging public split in the Republican Party and old arguments rekindled by the 25th anniversary of the judgment that made abortion a constitutional right. Even as the arguments rage, however, Mary Dejevsky in

Washington finds signs

that the tide of opinion

may be turning.

The National Committee of the Republican Party, which approves policy and controls funds, was set for a bitter debate at its annual meeting in California yesterday, the like of which had not been seen in years. The issue was whether party funds should be used to support election candidates who do not subscribe to the party's out-and-ont opposition to "partial hirth abortion" - a technique for late abortion that critics regard as a particularly cruel form of infanticide.

Party policy is to have the procedure outlawed and two hills have been passed by Con-

gress, only to be vetoed by President Clinton. Public opin-80 per cent of Americans oppose the procedure. Pictures provided by lobbyists are grue-

A small minority of Congressmen and candidates on the liberal wing of the party, however, regard the hue and cry as the thin end of the anti-abortion wedge - a means of eventually drumming up enough support to remove women's right to abortion altogether - and steadfastly refuse to condemn it.

Last month, ardent foes of

these "dissidents" deprived of lobbying on other issues. How ion polls find that more than central campaign funds, a sanction that could would impair, if not ruin, their election test for donors? There were in some constituencies "proprospects. With the mid-term held this autumn, the sanction was a real threat.

The campaign got up a head of steam before the Republican Party leadership sounded the ation that abonion - even such alarm. The result was an emergency propaganda hlitz appealing for party unityinclusion not exclusion.

They argued that making attitudes to partial birth abortion abortion petitioned the party's a "litmus test" for obtaining cen-

National Committee to have tral funds laid the party open to congressional and local Reabout a "litmus test" on other issues, like free trade? A litmus whispers of Stalinism. democ- choice" voters might switch to congressional elections to be ratic centralism and thought dictatorship. For the more traditional, patrician (and shrinking) wing of the party. there was the further considera repellent practice as partial birth abortion - was a matter for

> Behind these objections, however, were other, practical, ones. A number of prominent

> individual conscience, not par-

ty politics.

publican candidates could risk defeat, not only because of inadequate funding, but because the rival Democrat. Unspoken was the further consideration that the women's vote - which already favours the Democrats - could decline further. By yesterday, with television advertisements calling for Republican "inclusiveness" still running, the funding motion was confi-

a close call. This defeat, and the practical considerations behind it.

dently expected to fail, but it was

reinforced an impression that the vicious passion that has for so long fuelled the abortion dehate in America may be start- other words, increased public ing to wane, along with the role of fundamentalist Christian movements in US politics.

Opinion polls conducted for the 25th anniversary of Roe v Wade - the Supreme Court ruling that gave US women the constitutional right, albeit limited, to an abortion - suggest . something similar.

Although lohbyists on both sides use the polls, for their own reasons, to show that anti-abortion sentiment has hardened, this is not the whole story. The

support for the view that abortion should be a legal right. In censure co-exists with acceptance - an acceptance that could not be taken for granted 25 years ago.

The anniversary of Roe v Wade falls next week, and lobbyists on both sides have been enthusiastically fighting the old fights. But the real fear that stalked abortion clinics seems recently to have dissipated. Abortion doctors were unworried enough about their safety to hold an anniversary dinner dance last weekend.

#### **Bundestag allows Big Brother into** German homes

Germany broke with a post-war taboo yesterday by tegalising police bugging of private homes. The law authorising eavesdropping was passed by just over two thirds of the Bundestag, clearing by only four votes the hurdle laid down for constitutional amendments.

If approved by the second chamber, the Bundesrat, German police officers will have similar rights and obligations as their colleagues in other European countries. Permission for such measures will have to be approved by courts individually, and can only be granted if they serve an ongoing investigation into serious crimes.

The homes of priests, lawyers and MPs will continue to be immune to electronic surveillance. Doctors, tax advisers and journalists may be bugged, but a court must decide afterwards whether the information can be used.

Critics say the measure gives law enforcement authorities a way to introduce evidence from doctors and others who now have the right to refuse testimony. A journalists' union has threatened to challenge the measure in the Constitutional Court.

Although the wording of the law is the result of all-party discussions, serious reservations exist both on the left and the libertarian right. The previous Justice Minister, Sahine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, resigned because she strongly dis-

agreed with the proposed Bill. The han on hugging was one of the last vestiges of the 1949 constitution drawn up with the specific purpose of preventing a recurrence of Nazism. As a result of that Basic Law, Germans have tended to enjoy more protection from Big Brother than citizens of most democracies.

- Imre Karacs, Bonn



The greatest: Mohammad All receives the Commander of the Arch at King Hassan's palace

Boxing champion Ali adds Morocco's top honour to his trophies

mad Ali one of Morocco's top honours. During a ceremony on Thursday night in

King Hassan II has awarded former The order of the Commander of the Arch rocco and Angola by kicking the first ball. heavyweight boxing champion Muham- is one of Morocco's most prestigious.

ceived a copy of a cassette recording of holy month of Ramadan. He also opened children. a friendly foothall match between Mo-

During the four-day visit, Ali, founder Ali, 54, arrived in Morocco earlier this of the charity Global Village Champion. week to attend religious ceremonies and was to visit several orphanages and the Moroccan capital Rahat, Ali also re- discussions in celebration of the Muslim humanitarian organisations which help

#### Killing of Serb sours Croat takeover

A Croat man has been charged with murder after shooting dead a Serb in the eastern region which was returned to Croatia on Thursday after two years' of United Nations administration. The shooting occurred hours before the Croatian government and the United Nations highlighted reconciliation between Serbs and Croats in the former Serb enclave and pledged to belp the two communities live together again.

The 50-year-old man, identified only by the initials M.C., shot a Serb man in the chest with a Kalashnikov rifle on Wednesday night, a month after he threw a hand grenade into a cafe, killing another Serb. "For the first crime he was charged with "endangering public safety with fatal consequences'," a UN spokesman said, adding that the U.N. mission in Eastern Slavonia was concerned with the light sentence since he had intentionally thrown a hand grenade.

#### Italy gets back its ancient corpse

The frozen remains of a prehistoric man, believed to be the oldest mummy in the world, were returned to Italy, ending a six-year custody dispute with neighbouring Austria. The two nations have been squabbling over the 5,300-year-old corpse since 1991 when il was found by tourists on the Similaun glacier in the Oetz valley and whisked off to Innsbruck by a team of Austrian experts.

#### Fears grow over Belgian mass killings

Belgian police said the seven bodies found huried at the house of Andras Pandy did not include any of his missing family members, raising fears the death-toll could go as high as 13. Pandy, a Protestant pastor of Hungarian descent, has been accused of murdering two of his wives and four children and police were surprised when DNA showed none of the seven bodies found belonged to his family.

#### Not-guilty plea at war-crimes court

A Bosnian Croat injured in a shoot-out with Nato troops last munth pleaded not guilty. to taking part in the killing of a Bosnian Moslem woman. Vlatko Kupreskic, who was wounded after opening fire on the Dutch troops who arrested him, was making his first appearance before judges of the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

#### Finnish PM to remarry

Finnish Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen will remarry this month to a long-time companion 25 years his junior. The 56-year old prime minister, whose daughter from his first marriage made him a grandfather last week, got engaged to history teacher Paivi Hertzberg, 31, on Christmas Eve.

# Incredible flight offer: Europe from £34 return

The Independent and Independent on Sunday, in association with easyJet are offering readers the chance to fly to Europe from an incredible £34 return or £22 one way (all prices include airport tax).

This offer is available between 21 February and September 1998. Choose from Barcelona, Nice, Amsterdam, Geneva or Palma and in Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Inverness. Flights to all destinations are from London Luton, while you can also travel to Nice and Amsterdam from Liverpool airport as well.

If you live in Scotland you can fly from any of the Scottish airports mentioned above, to London Luton from £34 return (including air-

The prices for travel are divided into three bands - travel between 21 February and 28 March are Band A, while travel between 29 March and 4 September is divided into peak, (Band C) and off peak (Band B). If you want to travel off peak then use the grid to advise you of the best times

The price grid shows the cost of a one way flight to each destination. If you choose to travel to a particular destination in band A, then you may find it is a different price to hands B or C.

#### How to book

Simply collect 12 differently numbered tokens from The Independent and Independent on Sunday (You must have 2 tokens from The Independent on Sunday, tokens will be printed until Priday 23 January ). If you missed last weeks tokens it is not too late to start collecting - we will be printing 2 tokens per day until Friday

Decide when and where you want to travel. You can book for up to five people with the one set of tokens as long as all passengers are travelling together. You can book up to two separate single or return journeys for up to 5 people but each application must be accompanied by 12 differently numbered tokens.

On Saturday 24 January we will print a telenhone number which you should use to book your

You must book at least three weeks before You will need to keep bold of your tokens as you will need to present them at the airport when

For more information call the special phone line 0870 60 60 737



Amsterdam: One of five European destinations available

#### Destinations and single flight prices including tax

DESTINATION		MARCH 28 histograd (1)	MARCH :	ND B 29 - SEPT 4 -PEAK ) Inbound (E)	MARCH	ND C 29 - SEPT 4 EAK ) Inbound (5)
Barcelona	22.00	12.00	34.50	24.50	39.50	29.50
Palma	22.00	12.00	29.50	19.50	44.50	34.50
Nice®	22.00	14.70	24.50	17.20	39.50	32.20
Amsterdam*	22.00	15.20	24.50	17.70	34.50	27.70
Geneva	22.00	19.00	24.50	21.50	34.50	31.50
Edinburgh	22.00	12.00	22.00	12.00	24.50	14.50
Aberdeen	22.00	12.00	22.00	12.00	24.50	14.50
Glasgow	22.00	12.00	22.00	12.00	24.50	14.50
Inverness	22.00	12.00	22.00	12.00	24.50	14.50

To calculate the return price add the outbound and inbound fares together.

Flights between 29 March and 4 September have different prices for peak and off-peak travel. If you want to travel off-peak, choose to travel at less popular times. This guide will help.

There are only very few off peak flights in July and August. Weekend flights will be very popular - be prepared to take alternative mid week

If offer fares are not available at a particular time, a normal priced seat can be bought in conjunction with an offer seat.

There are no off-peak seats available on popular flights such as bank holiday weekends, Here's more specific advice for more popular destinations

Barcelona: There are no off-peak flights in July or August. July and August are especially popular Off-peak travel is only available in April. Saturday travel before Easter is especially popular.

Barcelona-London Luton: 10-11 May.

Inverness: There is no off-peak travel in August. Exclusions: You cannot fly with our offer during these times: All destinations; 9-14 April; 1-4 May; 22-25 May; 28-31 August. Liverpool-Nice: 2-4 March, 20-23 May; 14 June. Nice-Liverpool: 4-6 March; 25-26 May; 16 June London Luton-Nice: 3-4 March; 20-23 May; 13-14 June. Nice-London Luton: 24-26 May, 16 June. London Luton-Edinburgh: 21-22 March. Edinburgh-London Luton: 22-23 March. London Luton-Barcelona: 7-10 May.

You cannot travel on flights scheduled to depart after 2pm on Fridays

#### BAND A: FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 28

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## easyJet

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

n mass killings L To qualify to apply for flights must collect 12 differently numbered tokens from those printed in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday 2. There are 50,000 seats avail-

able and they will be sold on a first come first served basis. Bookings are made subject to availability. 3. Neither Easylet or News-paper Publishing ple can be held responsible for callers

who cannot get through to the booking line. 4. Token holders aged 18 and over are emitted to purchase return flights for up to 5 people in one booking with one com-

plete set of tokens for use on qualifying Easylet flights only. Each return flight from either London Luton or Liverpool is a maximum of 2 bookings per All passengers travelling on ined in The Independent on Satbelow.

person. Each booking requires a complete set of tokens. Applications for more than 1 pertravelling at the same time, from the same airport to the same destination and, where applicable, returning on the same flight.

5. Passengers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Infants aged 23 months or less determined by the age on the date of travel - can travel free of charge on condition that they share the same seat of travel as the adult accompanying them. Only one infant may accom-

pany each adult. 6. Passengers are responsible for obtaining, and possessing (if appropriate) valid passports, visas and insurance. It is strongly recommended that

valid 10 year passport and nec-essary visas. All passengers son are valid only when they are travelling on domestic flights must have valid identification e.g. passport, driving licence or

7. A fully completed collector form with 12 differently numbered tokens does not represent an entitlement to travel on a specific route on a specific

8. Collector forms and tokens are non transferable, have no cash value and must be surrendered when checking in for the initial flight. All bookings issued are non transferable and non refundable. 9. This offer cannot be used in

conjunction with any other of-10. One special telephone passengers take out insurance. booking number will be print-

peated on Sunday 25, Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 January. You can only book flights using this number. Please do not call easylet on any other number or Newspaper Publishing ple as your booking will not be

accepted.
11. Bookings for flights will only be taken by phone between 24 January and 5 February 1998 inclusive. Bookings will only be taken between opm and 11pm Monday -Friday and between 12 noon and 10pm on Saturdays and Sundays during this period.

12. Calls will be charged at the

national call rate. 13. All outward and return travel must be taken between 21 February and 4 September 1998 inclusive subject to the ex(a) Travel on Fridays and Sundays scheduled to commence (b) Travel between 9-14 April. t-4 May, 22-25 May, 28-31

August. (c) Travel from Liverpool - Nice 2-4 March, 20-23 May, 14 June. Nice to Liverpool on 4-6 March, 25-26 May, 16 June London Luton - Nice 3-4 March, 20-23 May, 13-14 June. Nice to London Luton 24-26 May. (d) London Luton - Edinburgh 21-22 March. Edinburgh

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22-23 March. ter London Luton - Barcelona 7-10 May, Barcelona - London Luton 10-11 May. 15. Payment for tickets under clusions listed in condition 14 this promotion may only be made by Switch, Mastercard,

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originate in the UK and in the case of European flights they must be from either London Luton or Liverpool airports. 17. No alterations, refunds or exchanges will be permitted after a booking has been ac-cepted. All flights and schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Previous bookings made prior to this promotion and for use during the period of this promotion cannot be exchanged or refunded for any ticket acquired under this promotion. You must book at least three weeks

before you fly. 18. Lawlet reserve the right not nomena, industrial dispute, to accept multiple applications war, riots, acts of God, super-

ternational flights must have a urday 24 January 1998, and retrade or social groups.

19. Easy Jet's conditions of carriage apply to all flights booked on the Promotion and shall prevail in the event of any incon-

sistency with the terms of the Promotion. EasyJet reserves the right to vary its conditions of carriage. Copies are avail-able at EasyJet sales points. 20. Once tokens have been redeemed EasyJet and Newspaper Publishing pleshall not be liable for any failure to fulfil this promotion where such failure is caused by any supervening force majeure. Such circumstances shall include, but shall not be limited to, severe weather conditions, fire, flood, earthland or other natural phe-

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to employees of Newspaper Publishing pk or EasyJet or anyone associated with the promotion. 22, EasyJet reserve the right to refuse to honour any application or recover the cost of any booking if it considers there has

been an abuse of this promoterms or conditions of this promotion. 23. The decision of EasyJet and/or Newspaper Publishing ple in all matters under their respective control is final and binding.

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## How the flying pigs became a crackling good tale

Even Thought For The Day caught swine fever. The subject for Radio 4's religious slot yesterday was the fugitive

Tamworth pigs whose fate, a worthy godslot contributor informed us, has gripped the imagination of the

Excuse me. Yes, I know that the august Guardian yesterday used the same phrase on its froot page, and witbout apparent irony. The tabloid papers have given over page after page to the subject. News at Ten has revelled in a story which might have been tailor-made for its "And Finally ..." slot. And there's the ruh. But before we come to that, for those readers

#### BY PAUL **VALLELY**

who have today returned from holiday in a less sentimental clime, here is the story so far.

Nine days ago two Ginger Tamworth pigs escaped as they were being transferred from a van into an abattoir yard in Malmesbury. They ran round the yard before forcing their way through a hole in the fence and ran off across the road into the fields opposite. Confronted by the barrier of the River Avon. they dived into the icy waters and swam to freedom. They then went to ground in the gardens of the town.

Their owner, a council road sweeper with the improbable name of Arnaldo Dijulio, who had reared them for slaughter on his smallholding, tried to catch them, as did other locals, hut they ran off with a surprising turn of speed whenever anyone tried to get hold of them.

So much for the facts, Had it been France, Germany or Italy, or more especially the United States, someone would then have got a gun and shot them. There would have been

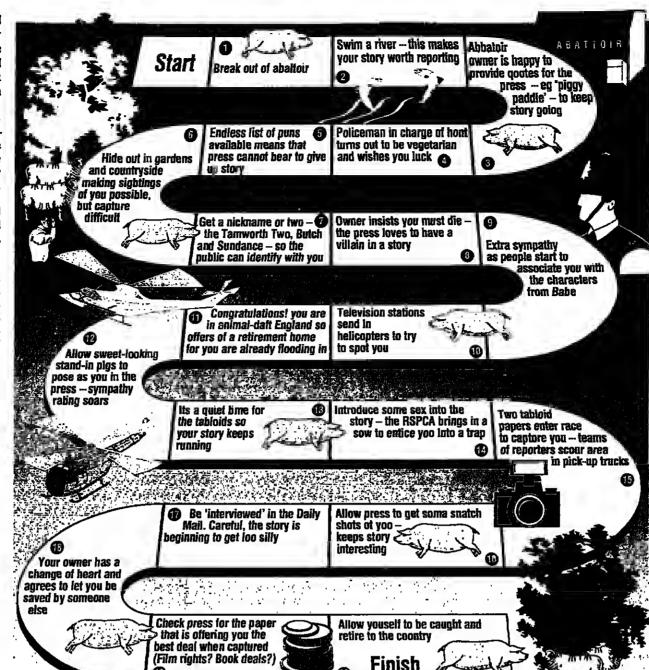
But this is Britain. When reports filtered through to London leams of newshounds were dispatched. They chased the unhappy animals on foot, by car, in hired four-wheel drives. ITN even seot a helicopter. The pigs were variously named - Fred and Ginger, Babe and Algy, Butch and Sundance and, more universally, the Tamworth Two.

The papers and the local RSPCA office proclaimed themselves to be inundated with calls from people offering money to save the beasts. A mystified Mr Dijulio suddenly found himself heing offered as much as £15.000 for his pigs which the week hefore would have fetched him £40 a piece.

The tabloids filled doublepage spreads with terrible puns: "Squeal meet again" said hacks who declared themselves to be "on the pig's tail" in an a attempt to capture the "cheeky swine" and theo take them to an animal sanctuary where the might live "high on the hog". And on it went, liberally illustrated with photos of "Ginger

Tamworths, like the one above". The broadsheets carried more discursive pieces, sprinkled with references to George Orwell and Lord Emsworth hut nonetheless managed to fill prodigious amounts of column inches. The men on the telly, deprived at first of actual pictures of their prey and forced to create their own images where none existed, resorted to codding up "great white hunter" sceoes io which reporters. equipped with metaphorical stout stick, felt the temperature of the spoor freshly imprinted in the ground.

Dog hites man, you will recall, is no story in the British news lexicon. But this was pig and animals? For we have been



The grunt escape – or how to avoid the chop by becoming a media star

bites man, putatively at any rate for, as the papers kept informing us, the Tamworth Ginger could give you a nasty nip.

What is it about the British

here before. Remember Blackie the Donkey? He was rescued by the Sun from cruel Spaniards who wanted to kill him in 1987 in an annual ritual to mark the execution of a

rapist centuries ago, and then pinched by the Daily Star which took him to join 7,000 others in the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth. Devon. Then there was the rabbit saved by an intrepid

Mail on Sunday reporter who ventured into the lair of Colonel Gaddafi to recover the pet, which had been ahandoned when diplomats quit the British embassy during one of those Libyan crises (we forget the crisis, you see, but not the rabbit).

I have, I must confess, forgotten the name of the Tripoli bunny. Which is probably why I am back on rabbit pie. "Once an animal has been given a name, it is difficult to eat it," according to Julia Berryman, a psychologist at Leicester University who has made a study of people's attachment to animals. "Pets [except goldfish] are invariably named, and you form a relationship with them," she said. So close that one third of pet-owners, her research shows, have a closer relationship with their pet than their spouse. "These pigs have stepped out of line. They have crossed over from being farm animals to companions. They have been given names. Once that happens you can't reverse the

This explains something of our amhivalence about creatures which one minute are just potential bacon sandwiches and the next have become stars. It was a swift transformation. The day that we first heard of the pigs we were, elsewhere in our newspapers, cootinuing to regard the pigs and Wiltshire in an altogether different light.

Wiltshire, you may recall, is at the centre of the row between the British and Italians over whether Parma ham, the most upmarket transmutation a pig. can undergo, can legitimately be sliced in Wiltshire. The Parma Ham Consortium is seeking an injunction to prevent Asda from selling its meat cured in Parma but sliced and packaged in Chippenham. They might be better off just giving the hams cute little nicknames.

It goes further than that. We give them not just names, but persocalities. Anthropomorphism has been a British weak-. ness since the three little pigs first went to market. Small wonder that the device surfaced again this week. The Evening Standard printed the first "exclusive interview" with the Tam-

worth Two clad in dark glasses. The Daily Mail carried a wincemaking "world omicsclusive" ... complete with invented quotes which had they been from a person his editor would have warned "improved". Even the Times printed a piece with pig quotes prefaced with expletives like "Phew"

There were those who were not amused. "It's fautastically hypocritical," said Rev Professor Andrew Linzey. Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford, who holds Britain's first academic post in animal theology. "Five hundred million animals are slanghtered every year and are treated with hideous cruelty-pigs have their teeth dipped with metal pliers and their tails pulled off."

But it's not the tabloids he blames, so much as Aristotle. He was the first to say animals are there for our use, and then the idea came into Christianity via Thomas Aguinas who conceived an intellectual hierarchy from angels, men. women, animals and plants."

Such priorities became embedded in English culture and law. In the Seventies, Amnesty International financed experiments to torture pigs to find out whether certain kinds of torture could be used without damaging skin. In the 1980s, a man charged with cruelty to prawns successfully argued in court that they weren't sentient beings (he had thrown the live crustaceans on a hot plate and watched them jump). More recently the Nuffield Committee on xenotransplantation decided that it was ethical to use pigs for organ transplants but not primates like monkeys and apes because they were too close to human beings.

The Tamworth Two, both back in custody last night, were originally part of a three-pig group when they entered the abattoir. The third animal was, according to the hutcher, "processed in the usual way." If



#### INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY



## WIN A MINOTEL OR FIVE LAKES WEEKEND BREAK

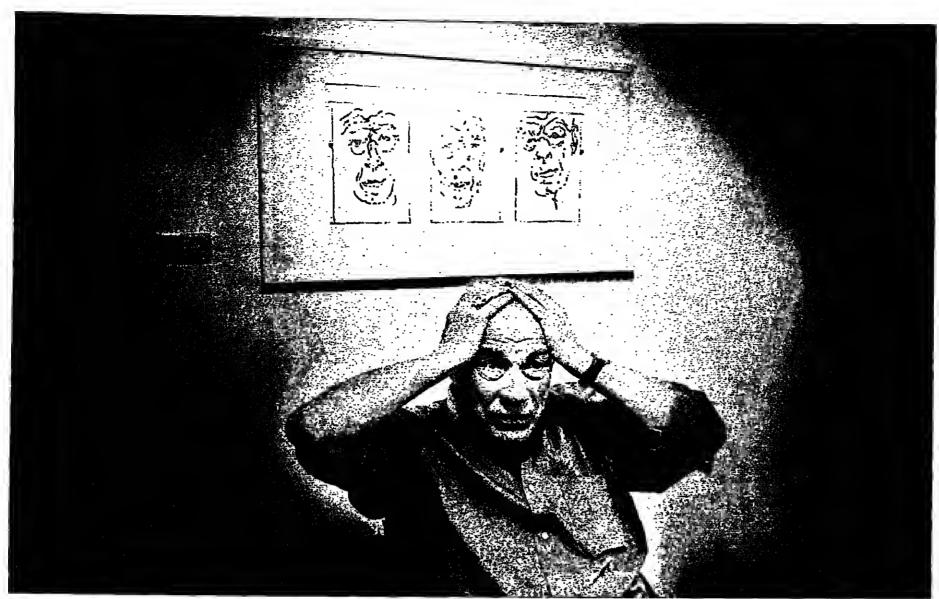




Have you been on a city break in the last 12 months? If so, then we would like to hear from you.

By filling in the questionnaire you have the chance to win a UK City Break at one of the following hotels: Five Lakes Hotel, Golf & Country Club, Maldon, Essex, are offering a two night 'Pamper time' stay in an en-suite room with English breakfast. The pampering includes massage, facial and manicure with an evening meal from the table d'hote in the award winning Camelot restaurant. Or have a weekend break in the Minotel Herald House Hotel in a double or twin room with a full English breakfast where you can take advantage of their courtyard bar and acclaimed restaurant. The hotel is situated in the heart of Edinburgh only a few minutes walk from Princes Street. Offers are based on two people sharing and subject to availability and confirmation by the hotel. Winners to be Please send your completed questionnaire to: City Break Questionnaire, Freepost 13583, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL, to arrive no later than 31st January 1998.

How many city breaks holidays in the UK have you had in the last 12 months (excluding visits to family and friends)?	8. Regarding your choice of accommodation, how would you rate the following in order of importance, with I being not at all important and 5 being very	13. Which of the following do you use for information about what to do on your city break?	ABOUT YOU
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Seeking the John Berger before 'Face Writing', a triple selfportrait. With images of faces,' he

says, 'what one looks for is to make that face also a place' - in this case, Inch Kenneth Hebrides

Photograph:

## John Berger: ways of seeing, ways of biking

For well-nigh half a century. John Berger - poet, essayist, critic, novelist, playwright, veteran guru of the left - has taught us new ways of thinking, new ways of seeing the world. So what is he doing now? Drawing motorbikes. He tells Andrew Lambirth the reason why.

A compact, energetic figure with white hair, John Berger will be 72 this year. He was born in Stoke Newington, North London, but for 30 years he has lived abroad, and now makes his home in a village in the French Alps. He is hesitant in conversation; allel sensation that he is translating from another language - French? - as he speaks. At one point he says: "freedom, but not with a capital L' (as. presumably, in Liberté), before quickly correcting himself. His "no" reverts to a "non" at times of emphasis.

His apparent shyness is no doubt a mask for his sensitivity - the sensitivity that permits him to respond so intricately to works of art, people and places. His seriousness is matched by a willing sense of humour; Berger has a warm presence; he is charming and courteous. Yet there is also a reserve; you sense a hidden, private core to the man, which may or may not be serene.

Today. John Berger is perhaps hest known as a Booker Prize-winning writer of fiction, yet even those whose eyes were opened by his extraordinary 1972 TV sehe began life as an artist, training first at the Central School, where he stayed for almost two years before going into the army. Demobbed in 1946, he continued his interrupted education at Chelsea School of Art. There were good teachers on the staff: Robert Medley. Geri Richards, Henry Moore, Julian Trevelyan. At that point

Berger saw himself as pursuing a life in art. He had some success in group exhibitions, then in 1953 he was given a solo show at Wildenstein's of some 15 or 20 paintings, nearly all of which are now dispersed to the winds. The Wildenstein show was his last in England until this week. He returns now to the gallery circuit with 14 recent drawings, showing at Purdy Hicks, near the new Tate at Bankside. A modest show, but full

of interest, and highly typical of the man. I am interviewing him in the gallery, and we return to the story of his development. What does he think now of the paintings of that early period? He frowns. "Several things. First of all, that they are often quite clumsy. And then, almost the opposite: that you feel that he is weighing every word, they could be freer, that they're a bit conning for the mot juste. There is the par-stipated. But I can also see in them, some where struggling behind that restrictiveness. war... In that situation, to a kind of passion, which I can recognise perhaps as mine."

It was in 1953, too, that Berger stopped practising as an artist. Not that he stopped drawing altogether, but being an artist now took second place to writing, and drawing hecame simply an activity he undertook from time to time. "Like a diary?" I ask. "No, it was either more functional than that, or more relational. Either I drew because I saw something and wanted to remember it for some quite definite purpose, or I would draw something which I thought would help me with my writing. Sometimes I would draw portraits of people I was inventing in a book, or portraits of intimate friends. I've always donc that - it's not really a question of making a portrait but of ries, Ways of Seeing, may not be aware that trying to follow the traces of their lives, which are somehow visible in their hands or in their faces." Despite, or perhaps because of, his need

for precision of expression, Berger notoriously finds writing difficult, and turns to drawing almost for light relief. He makes no big claims for his new exhibition, but he's always been keen to put on record the various aspects of his creativity - whether essays, crit- for me to become a journalist, and I could icism, plays, poetry, photographs or fiction. The drawings, mostly in charcoal or ink, are clearly important to him, but he remains modest about them. "About four or five years ago, I began to draw more and more. And then I realised something. For 35 or 40 years, I really wasn't drawing very much. One would suppose that, if one then went back to it, one would more or less go back to where one had ing those mute years, things had gone on de-

'It was the height of the Cold War, we were living under threat of nuclear draw and paint seemed not urgent enough'

veloping, there had been an evolution, So I was actually further on."

So why did he give up art for literature? The creative choices that one makes in a life are much more incoherent and compulsive than one pretends afterwards. It wasn't really because I became discouraged about myself as a painter. No. Of course I had days of despair, as everybody does, but that hadn't overburdened me. It was the height of the Cold War - 1952, '53, '54 we were living under the imminent threat of nuclear war. It seemed that one really had to protest in order to make this terminal catastrophe even slightly less likely. In that situation, to draw and point seemed not urgent enough. Of course, one could have made posters and agirprop, but it's not something I ever did.

"I had a certain capacity to write. I discovered that when I was a kid at school. I

talk directly about the nuclear threat and the political choices. So it was a kind of urgent, somewhat desperate politicisation which led me to begin writing. Having done that I began to see that it was difficult to combine these two activities. Painting has to be a full-time activity. You really have to be covered with this material that you're working with, whether it's paint or clay. So stopped. But I found surprisingly that, dur- I then decided that, rather than be a onehanded painter, it was better to stop."

> Berger was the feared and respected art critic of The New Statesman for a decade (1952-62), writing in favour of social (not socialist) realism, a logical extension of his commitment to Marxism. He also wrote other journalism, but it was not long before he felt e urge to go beyond reporting the immediate, and explore fiction. His first novel. A Painter of Our Time, published in 1958, is primarily about painting. The book has an experimental and slightly didactic feeling to it. and is based on a group of people, many of them emigres from Central and Eastern Europe, who lived in the Finchley Road area. Berger says that if anyone inspired the observations on painting in the book it was a Dutch artist and close friend, Friso Ten Holt, who in fact died the week before our interview. Ten Holt also had a motorbike, a BSA. and made a number of journeys by bike with Berger. This is not as irrelevant as it sounds; from an early age. Berger has been passionate about motorbikes, and still rides one. Three of the drawings in this exhibition are about the experience of hiking.

It is a subject Berger is convinced he will return to. "This is really just the beginning." he says. Two drawings feature a biker traversing a printed map, I ask whether this is Berger in conceptual mode. "They're not drawings about motorbikes, they're about the experience of riding a bike, I was working on the series, fiddling around, when suddenly I had the idea of drawing on a map. wrote poems, letters... It became possible. Then I began to see something which is not

Noble's latest London season; on

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METHINKS IT'S ALL

so much conceptual as phenomenological. to do with experience. The contours on a map, the rivers, the roads, the mountain ranges, begin to make a metaphor with the body of the motorbiker and the hike. In a strange way you become the journey that you've made, until the next one. You eat it and you shit it too; it passes through you."

We look together at other drawings in the gallery. One, O Betanzos, depicts a small town in Galicia, northern Spain. "It was a very poor town, from which thousands of emigrants left for Cuba and Latin America... I went there several summers; I love this place. I did several drawings, always with this obsession that Betanzos was a lown which people left, so the drawing is about memory."

A triptych called Face Writing, done in absorbent paper, is a series of three selfportrait heads drawn with spidery economy. With images of faces, what one looks for is to make that face also a place, a specific place." He means, in terms of where it was drawn - Inch Kenneth, in the Hebrides. And that's all the information that Berger thinks necessary to impart. As visitors to his exhibition, our primary

joh is to look, not to sniff oul autobiography. There are drawings of fish, made partly from Berger's interest in movement. Their particular appeal? "I suppose it is the fantastic intricacy of these creatures ... There are two things about fish: their speed, which is expressed in their forms, and that their lives are incredibly secret. Except when you glimpse them through the water, or they're dead, you never see fish. And it seems to me that so much drawing and painting is finally about seeking the invisible."

Drawings by John Berger is at Purdy Hicks, 65 Hopton Street, London SEI (0171-401 9229) until 31 January, 'Pages of the Wound'. a limited edition of Berger's selected poems. photographs and drawings (John Christie at Circle Press, £270), is on sale at the gallery.

#### The wispy little man behind the big Bronx novel

Don Delillo Congress House

That small sense of déjà vu perhaps: a crowd of 500 packed into TUC headquarters to hear Don Delillo, scion of Italian immigrants from the Broux, talk a lot of fiction. The publishers had described it as the literary event of the decade. It cost £3.50 a head, and was on the No 7

At the end of the evening, in exchange for a voluntary levy of approximately £15, many walked away with living proof that they had been there - a novel, Underworld, weighing in at approximately 2 kilos, together with a spidery signature of authenticity.

Many in that crowd were PhD students - the girl sitting next to me was 80,000 words into a doctorate on the post-modern American novel. She'd approached the subject through cybernetics at first, she said, but her supervisor at Birkbeck had suggested a slightly different approach - through noise theory. This was why she'd read Delillo's White Noise. It was the only one of his books she'd read. It had been very interesting, she said.

At exactly the moment when anticipation reached fever pitch, the Waterstone's marketing manager walked on stage to tell us how to queue for the book-signing at the end, and to remind us that it might be embarrassing if the book hadn't been purchased first. Mr Delillo was not in the habit of signing paper serviettes or merely handing out easy smiles, not these days, Then an oozy American literary editor from the New York Observer hit the podium running, with enough ridiculous hyperbole to make an author hreak down in tears of gratitude. No wonder Delillo, when he came boinging across the stage like a kangaroo, looked contented. He even flieked the Lit Ed on the back of the neck with the cutting edge of his manuscript to show that he was being really pally.

The Birkbeck PhD already knew what Delillo would be like - small and wispy, with a heavy lisp. More private citizen than literary hero. And so it was. He treated us to 35 minutes of readings from the book, the wonderful, fast repartee of a couple of Bronx hutchers; kids smashing up a carriage on the Elevated Railroad; taking the sun on the roof of an apartment building in the Fifties, the tar melting in

Delillo knew that it was going to be a long book after he'd written the 20,000-word opening sequence, a description of a legendary ballgame hetween the Giants and the Dodgers, set in 1951. Somewhere within that sequence, a single sentence is buried describing a kid on a Bronx roof, listening to that game on the radio.

That kid, Nick Shay, would become the central character of the panoramic view of the Cold War era that the 800-page novel grew into over four years. Enough to keep any post-doctoral student of American literature gainfully employed for at least two lifetimes.

Michael Glover

#### THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

off from our roots, drawing a line under things, modernising, reinventing - that's what we like doing. That old stuff, tradition and so forth, it's a hit passé now, isn't it?

Living Ideas, this week's Postscript series on Radio 3. was based on the positively nerdy belief that history isn't so easily got rid of; you think you've wiped it off your shoes. hut the smell clings. Four contemporary thinkers arlive in, starting with the American philosopher Martha Nussbaum, who put the case for "Stoic cosmopolitanism".

Cosmopolitanism was invented by Diogenes the Cynic - a man famous for 2.000 years for living in a barrel which wouldn't get him more than 15 seconds of air time in the Ten O'Clock News "And finally ..." slot if he were alive are there any Skinner could today. The Stoics only popularised it. A cosmopolitan is, literally, a "citizen of the world". Cosmopolitanism held that class, rank, status, national origin and gender are took Gibbon's Decline and

right now; cutting ourselves we may have local fles and preferences, hut we are all part of a common human community. You can see the aspiration at work in modern phenomena from the International Court at the Hague to the Bill and Ted films, with their powerful moral. "Be cool to one another". But the irrelevance of

class and rank remains an ideal, and possibly not even that, in a country where placating the rich has become one gued the relevance of their of the first principles of govpredecessors to the world we erament. Machiavelli's practical political thought, the subject of Quentin Skinner's slot on Wednesday, seems to have had more concrete influence. The good ruler, quoted Skinner, knows how to vary his conduct with the winds of fortune, and knows that appearance is everything, is there some modern politician Skinner could have had in mind? Come to that,

not have had in mind? The power of history to shape the present was given its full due in Empire (Radio 4, Monday), where Peter Jay

The past is unfashionable irrelevant to moral worth; Fall of the Roman Empire as the model for a four-part obituary of the British Empire. The first programme was dragged down by a cliched production - an imperial march by William Walton. clopping hooves, cheering crowds - and by Jay's overassured delivery. But underneath lay an appealing intellectual shyness, an unwillingness to put forward explanations and motives for such a loose, heterogeneous phenomenon, as Jay moved towards the reflection that what can happen, will happen.

Fortunately, that isn't true. as evidenced by Kennedy's Secret Tapes (Radio 4. Wednesday), an account of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. Anthony Howard, all breathless intelligence, narrated and Ed Bishop made a strangely sheepish JFK, What could have happened here was a nuclear strike on Cuba -in fact, the programme suggested, it came closer to happening than people realised at the time. Listening, you felt a trickle of uneasy relief that it didn't; and realised that this is what really matters about history: it's still going on-

#### A WEEK IN THE ARTS DAVID LISTER

Theatre just isn't "relevant", in-more people to see Adrian tones Dominic, the pompous young TV producer in David Hare's outstanding play Amy's tien, which transferred to the West End this week. He is suitably chided - with Hare's approval, one suspects. But in the Royal Shakespeare Company's new season brochure also out this week, I spy the "make it relevant" factor at work once more.

Take this breathless description of a play. The hero, we read. is the only if who the country knows who has killed his father. When he alerts the

murderer to the fact, he puts his own life in are lifelong. No marketing per-

danger." That's Hamlet. OK. that was easy. What about "Is it hope and private despair."

his conscience that troubles the king ... or another lady!" If you plumped for Henry (711, proceed to the final round. 'A complex web of sexual passion, political Gotcha! Anyone who correctly guessed Uncle lunya can proceed straight to an executive job in the RSC marketing department.

son is going to write any of that, of course. But aren't psychological insights, poetry and unrequited love as "relevant" as the einematic sound-bites of "alerting the murderer" and "putting his own life in danger? Ol course, it's all a way of try-

ing to get a new audience into the theatre. The problem with trying to persuade them that they are about to see LA Confidential on stage is that they On one level. I'm in favour of any wheeze that encourages might just leave at the interval.

# Get Lost!

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THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT



## Professionalism and imagination: the only response to falling arts subsidies



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Among the works associated with Sir Isaiah Berlin - fondly remembered at a memorial service this week - is his enrichment of the old adage that there is no accounting for taste. Values, he taught, are incommensurable, and the old liberal idea that we should work towards a nirvana where all conflicts can be ended is not only inhuman but positively dangerous.

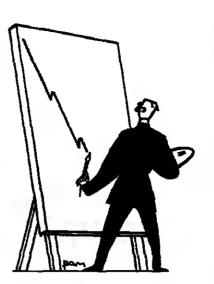
Well, scanning the latest Arts Council hudget allocations, it's hard not to agree. Here is a miniature example of the wider point. How exactly do we measure the relative worthiness of supporting - out of a limited and shrinking total of public money - opera rather than film, poetry against painting, and after that decide, say, that this hig London-based company is more deserving than that provincial troupe or even (a critical example) this London orchestra rather than that?

The answer is we cannot. Decisions have to be made, and money allocated. But there will always be argument, endless dispute about what constitutes innovation, about what is good and worthy and what deserves subsidy from the taxpayers when patrons won't pay up. That dehate is not just inevitable. It is thoroughly healthy. The core principle, that there should be public subsidy, is unassailable. The vexing questions are how much and for whom. What

is essential is that such judgements are made openly, and that they are available to be defended by those who make them on the public's behalf. The public's assent has to he earned rather than taken for granted. Too often arts administrators have allowed their defensiveness to become an excuse for closet decision-making, too readily (but understandably) interpreted by the public as arrogance.

That is the biggest criticism that can be levelled at the Arts Council. Born as a buffer, to stop direct political interference in artistic projects, the Council has too often itself become a sealed container, its deliberations impervious to public gaze and correction. Worse, it has not even been well run. Too often the paying public has been left with the impression of an institution afraid of debate, and inefficient with it. Too often under Arts Council oversight, arts administration has remained the province of amateurs, sincere, titled, well-intentioned ... and innumerate. That is a generalisation unfair to many organisations, no doubt - but all too apt a description of, for example, the Royal Opera.

In this light, the twin appointments this week of new chairmen for both the Arts Council and the Royal Opera must be welcome news, Messrs Southgate, at Covent Garden, and Robinson, at the Arts Coun-



cil, bring two much-needed qualities to their respective tasks. Too much can be made of business acumen in the public sector - Mrs Thatcher's serial appointments proved that success in running a company or impressing the Stock Exchange is not a sufficient condition for political and administrative achievement. But managing

Granada or EMI is a very big task; it is hard to imagine Sir Colin Southgate allowing the Opera House's finances to come to their present sorry pass, if only because he would have been scrutinising the balance sheets.

What both men also offer is a fresh eye. Sir Colin takes over in anticipation of Sir Richard Eyre's report on the future of the Covent Garden site: he will need to be tough-minded and iconoclastic if company and theatre are to be re-founded. Gerry Robinson does not have to be a ruthless tycoon to ask whether the Arts Council is strictly necessary – but he will be free from the ludicrons prejudice which sees artistic endeavour as so fragile, so precious that only amateurs can be entrusted with the husiness of allocating grants. Both men ought to agitate for more money from all sources, that is part of the job. But both are surely realistic enough to know that - however rosy the macro-economic assumptions for the spending era after April 1999 - financial constraints are more

likely to tighten than become more lax. Besides, a lot of ritual huffing and puffing goes on over arts funding. It will always be a critical, and unending, dialogue between "élitists" and "egalitarians", between those who want to concentrate the limited sums on the identifiably excellent

companies and sites so they can build and prosper and those who want to see a thonsand flowers blooming, especially in the provinces, even at the expense of quality.

A critical chairman of the Arts Conncil ought to get himself along to the Ald-wych Theatre and pick up the question posed (but disappointingly not answered) in David Hare's new play Amy's View. why should (subsidised) theatre be languishing when movie and television drama flourishes? Given his background, Gerry Robinson might extend the questionnaire and ask about orchestral subsidy levels, given the trends in the market for recorded classical music.

There are hard questions, but there are no clear or absolute answers: a lurch toward élitism or towards populism might look intellectually clever but would be disastrous in practice. If the Arts Council is to exist at all - and we are sceptics on that - then it should prove itself by finding more imaginative ways of using public money. It should support individual makers of music, art and drama - poets and sculptors - not simply institutions. It should ensure that we are provoked as well as charmed. And above all, it should be rigorous and ruthlessly professional in its management of money. That may not be an art; but without it, art suffers.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Welfare reform

Sir: I was concerned to read Tony Benn's defence of the current system of maternity

Maternity payments no longer benefit those most in need. In fact, they redistribute resources away from the poorest in society, because the more you earn, the more you get. For example, a woman earning £50,000 a year will receive maternity payments of almost £6,000, while another earning £60 per week gets nothing, because she is below the lower earnings limit.

Although £500m is spent on this benefit, one in five women workers who get preg-

fare state in 1945 - a different time, and in many ways a different world. Breadwinners were usually men, with women playing a role outside the workplace. Since the 40s, there has been an explosion of women working, particularly parttime.The social security system, and maternity benefits in particular, has not changed to

(Rochdale, Lab) Party Women's Group House of Commons London SW1

Sir: The dehate about delivery of universal benefits to the affluent raises a question. Will a government which has the courage to seek an integrated stamina to address that other boly grail, the amalgamation of the tax and benefits systems?

als hold a lifelong account with the state into which they pay when they are able and from which they draw as they need would obviate the distortions of and offer a more subtle set of policy levers than is currently

For example, an individual's account might be debited for routine health services such as dental or eve care, but not for the potentially bankrupting treatment of acute or chronic illness. A variety of means might be available to credit an individual's account. A graduate seeking employment could gain credit against her student loan by undertaking voluntary work, whilst a middle-aged person might gain credit against her own pension by caring for an elderly relative and thereby saving the state a substantial

A new mechanism for the financial relationship between from her garden gate. individuals and the state is a pre- NEVILLE CONDER requisite for a stakeholder so- London SW7 ciety. JIM TOOHILL London SW4

benefits (letter, 13 January).

nant get nothing.

Lahour established the welreflect this.

A reforming government that wants to rejuvenate the welfare state must modernise it, and that means ensuring that redistribution is towards, and not away from, those poorest women who currently face ex-LORNA FITZSIMONS MP

Chair, Parliamentary Labour

Blair to watch his back. In his drive to find savings from welfare spending he is taking a quite breathtaking risk. A Labour government which undermines the welfare state would be defenceless against a transport policy also have the Liberal Democrat party which campaigned on a "Save the Welfare State" platform. Labour backbenchers who enjoy their jobs should think long A system whereby individuand hard. CYRIL AYDON

South Newington, Oxfordshire Bike victim the current parallel systems Sir: Daniel Johnson (letter 16 January) seems to wish to justify cyclists riding on the pave-

during a given period there were many more collisions between cars and pedestrians. He does not tell us whether the cars were driving on the pavement. He does, however, say that the statistics are unreliable when referring specifically to cyclists on pavements because "they do not indicate where the collision took place or which party was at fault". ment, but I suppose Mr John-

Injustice: the sword of the disgraced Captain Alfred Dreyfus is ceremonially broken in the yard of the Ecole Militaire, January 1895

Esterhazy's fate

Sir: Esterhazy, for whose spying Dreyfus was blamed ("France still haunted by the spectre of ders directly from the military what was taking place. After he He is buried in St Nicholas's Southport, Merseyside

ment by pointing out that

fault for not stopping and look-

ing both ways before emerging

Sir: Setting up battle lines be-

tween cyclists and pedestrians

Dreyfus", 13 January), dealt authorities in Berlin. The Ger-fled France in September 1898, with the German military at- man ambassador. Count Müntaché in Paris, Colonel von ster von Derneberg, hated Schwarzkoppen, who took or-

espionage, and was unaware of

Esterhazy lived in England under various pseudonyms for most of the remainder of his life.

from their source. So asthma

in Cuha and the UK might

hoth he caused by global pol-

lution of some kind. Howev-

er, the coincidence of the

vaccination programmes de-

serves close study.

KEN HAGGETT

churchyard at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, under the name Count Jean de Voilemont. TIMOTHY ROBEY

Sir: Someone should warn Tony is not helpful. They both share Asthma in Cuba

the same means of propulsion, their legs, share the same concerns not to be hit by motor vehicles and as studies show (Transport Research Lahoratories - Project Report 15) are well able to share the same environment with consideration and co-operation.

New cyclists and children in particular are going to need all the help and encouragement they can get if we are going to have any chance to stem the car culture and reap the manifold benefits which this efficient, low impact machine has to of-

The answer is not in more bureaucracy with fixed penalties at some places and complicated procedures to redesignate footpaths for dual use of pedestrians and cyclists in others. The part of the ancient Highways Act prohibiting cyclists from footways should be renealed and the time and effort go into promoting good practice and considerate behaviour. Sections 28 and 29 of the Road Traffic Act on dangerous riding and due care and attention cover this. Fixed penalties, adminis-In the case of my little girl's tered with discretion, for cases broken leg, her collision with a of bad behaviour under this Act cyclist took place on the pave- may well be appropriate.

PETER HAYMAN son could claim that it was her Glasgow

> Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Sir: Mrs J Mathews suggests that the rise in asthma may be connected with multi-vaccination at an early age (letter, 14 January).

Two years ago I went to Cuba on holiday. While I was on a group visit to a collective farm the resident nurse was asked about the main medical problems encountered locally. She said that one of their main concerns was the steady increase in childhood asthma. On further questioning it was apparent that the asthma trends in Cuba over the last few decades have been broadly sim-

ilar to those in the UK. One would think that the environments were quite different; especially that Cuba has very little road traffic pollution. because it has very little road traffic. Climate and diet are different. One thing that Cuba does have in common with the UK is a comprehensive public ter advised to make their talhealth service, including mass

childhood vaccination. I would be tempted to jump to the conclusion that Mrs Mathews has hit the nail on the head, but Tony Bosworth of Friends of the Earth points out on the same page that some kinds of air pollution are felt a long way

panies convince talented young people that they are reentrants into the job market prefer them to consultancy cash and no less secure fu-

> The shortage of experienced myth. The largest group of people in the UK is the post-war bulge group. These are between 45 and 50. How many va- Hengrave,

columns carry that reflect this reality? An older manager looking for a job is often rejected as "overqualified" when he is eminently suitable except that he is applying for a post similar to one that he did successfully 15-20 years ago. A C WATSON

Unfilled jobs

Sir: There seemed to be two strands of thought in your article (14 January) on recruitment difficulties in the food industry: the unwillingness of talented young people to enter and the paucity of qualified and experienced managers.

I have noticed unwillingness among my children's peers to enter any industrial or manufacturing business. Their view is that potential employers offer no security in the long term in return for lower remuneration during training and, as a result, they are betents into high-paid/high-risk jobs in IT and finance.

Until manufacturing comliable partners, why should

cancies do the appointments Suffolk

Woking, Surrey

Fast answers

Sir: Our Dad read the article on encyclopaedias and computer CD-Roms (13 January), and then set us the three questions that the two researchers were given. We achieved all the questions in less than three minutes. We think most children between six and 12 who have a PC at home could do as well or better. We think your researchers must have been either very young (under four) or very old (over 16). MICHAEL KINSELLA

(aged seven) JAMES KINSELLA (aged 10)

Pigs in clover

Sir: Regarding the two escaped pigs, I am sure that Lord Emsworth would be delighted firms offering more immediate to give them a comfortable home in the wonderful surroundings of Blandings Castle and, no doubt, his brother Galaand qualified managers is a had would be able to devise suitable compensation for their owner.

PHILIP R EVANS

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

editor. For why? Because my brilliant wheeze of the week comes just too late. There has been a frantic bidding war for the Tamworth porkers. The Express wanted . to buy them for £1,000 but was outbid by rivals, and the price has reportedly now hit five figures. The nation has. momentarily, put down its cutlery to shed a fat and sentimental tear over the runaway pigs. Our resident hard, Martin Newall, produced a very fine ballad on the subject earlier in the week. Now, though, the Plain People of Britain wish - no, they absolutely demand to the story, with Butch and Sundance given luxurious happy retirement. Only then will the PPB settle down, relaxed, to enjoy a packet of pork scratchings and a bacon sandwich.

Here, surely, was a great Opportunity for a ruthlessly amoral editor (Marr, A) to make a huck. We should have outlid everyone, splashing out £50,000 or £100,000, for the pigs. Then we could have announced that they were going to be turned into bacon butties and sold to our readers ... unless a kinderhearted rival bought them back from us first. Given the sentimental weakness of the tabloid press, I could have made a packet, certainly tripling the investment, and earning enough to buy in a couple of dippy twentysomething columnists, a Paul Johnson essay on moral turpitude, and open a bureau in Brazil. Dammit. Why didn't I think of that earlier?

When I was nobbut a boy in Perthshire, I devoured the first glossy Sunday Times magazines partly because they published, week after week, illustrations from exhibitions that I'd never get to see. Then, for some reason, the fashion for visual art in weekend magazines passed.

Well, I am clearly a dullard In today's Independent Saturday Magazine, however, you will find pages devoted to paintings from Manchester, Liverpool, Swindon, Plymouth, Cookham and other non-London galleries. Next week the paintings go on show at the Royal Academy. where a ticket to "The Art Treasures of England; the Regional Collections" will cost you £7. Most of the time, though, you can see these and many other treasures free at local galleries.

Why the campaigning note? Because this will be the year when the principle of free access to public galleries and museums survives that there be a happy ending - or dies. A holding operation has kept the British Museum free for now but its finances quarters and a handsome in- are precarious and there are come hefore enjoying a those in the Treasury asking why the taxpayer should help. Many of the galleries whose finest jewels are in the new exhibition are in a parlous state too. Closing them off to casual visitors would be as had an act of civic wandalism as shutting urban

parks. Though the phrase "Victorian values" came to be associated with Margaret Thatcher, there's more than a whiff of Victorianism about New Labour too. There's Gladstone as Blair's preferred role model. There's the belief in work and selfreliance preached from Downing Street, and even the more traditionalist morality of those middle-class converts whom the American sociologist Charles Murray defined a few years ago as "new Victorians". But of course most of the strugeling regional galleries were also Victorian creations and remind us of another side to that era; the generous-minded and open attitude to the arts as an essential aspect of education. These are mindaltering substances which this newspaper firmly believes should be freely available on demand ... and yes, even to children.

Andrew Marr

#### Quote unquote

Alas, in a culture that encourages feeble-minded political correctness, great monuments and great works of art are not to be expected - Stephen Bayley, whn resigned as creative director of the Millennium Dome, protesting about the involvement of focus groups in its creation

Robin Cook is obviously dangerous around airports. First he ditched his wife, now he's declaring undying love. His advisers should make sure he only travels by road or rail - Linds McDougail, author of the book 'Westminster Women'

We need to make reading more sexy. The literati is dominated by those who graduated from Oxbridge in states of advanced condescension - Kathy Lette, bestselling author

Anyone who watched the game or has seen a video will recognise it would have taken the act of a contortionist with stiletto stude for a boot to have caused Simon's injury - Richard Yerbury, London Scottish chief executive on claims the ear injury was not caused by a bite

I've done something with my life. I've made kids happy around the world - Walter Diemer, inventor of bubble gum, before he

Celebrity is as addictive and destructive as any drink and I am a recovering celebrity - Barry Manilow



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LFROM

## If only I were a hard-working, hard-drinking Jewish agnostic



#### DAVID **AARONOVITCH** UNEXPLAINED CORRELATIONS

A sex survey published in the United States this week sheds important light on the welfare debate currently raging in this country. With the swapping of statistics on benefit fraud, the amount of abuse of disability payments and the existence or otherwise of a dependency culture, the all-important question is raised yet again about whether we are seeing causation or simply correlation. This week, fortuitously, assistance in the interpreting of such figures has come from Penn State University, under whose aegis a major study of sexual activity involving 10,000 Americans has just been completed. And the results of this very large survey have sent academics and sociologists into a frenzy of evaluation, as they compete to explain the results.

The first important figure tells us that there is less of this sex stuff going on than we thought. (Although a warning here: as far as I can tell onanism is not counted as sexual, activity by the Penn State researchers.) Twenty per cent of respondents had not "had" sex in the previous year, while 5 per cent did it at least three times a week. Overall this led to a statistic revealing that, while 15 per cent of the people had 50 per cent of the sex, the remaining 85 per cent had to share the rest between them - the sort of figure one associates with grossly unequal and unfair societies.

So, if you are an American who is not having a lot of sex, someone somewhere is getting your share. One day, an observer might speculate, the sexually dispossessed will rise up and occupy the boudoirs of the over-privileged. The Peter Stringfellows of Muncie and Boise will be found, suspended from the lamp-posts by their ...

But hold on to that rope, for there is much more interesting material to come. A series of figures breaks down the types of people and groups within society who are most and least likely to have more than their fair ration of sex. And there are some surprises here. Those who work long hours report hav-

ing sex more often, as do those who watch the largest amount of television. At a rate of 111 times per year, married couples under 29 do it more than singles of the same age (72), or older married couples (figure not given, but I suspect around the six mark).

Those with doctorates manage less houghmagandy than those with first degrees only, jazz enthusiasts more than rock music lovers, Catholics a weeny hit more than Protestants but 20 per cent less than agnostics or Jews. Smokers do it 10 per cent more than the average, drinkers 20 per cent more, and those who both drink and smoke claim to have twice as much. In a final twist, everyone claims to have more sex during periods when confidence in the presidency is generally low.

Now, we are entitled to ask some questions about these results. It may well be, for instance, that drinkers simply think they've had more sex than they actually have, or that heavy smokers are forced - by their shortness of breath - to count things as being sex which the rest of us don't. Baths and suchlike.

But once we have dealt with any obvious anomalies, we must move on to explanations. And this is where we are forced to consider the difference between correlation and cause. Is it the fact of one's occupation or religion or musical preferences that determines one's sexual behaviour? Or is there just a correlation, which is actually caused by the general characteristics that led to some of these choices in the first place?

The significance of this question cannot be overstated. Theoretically, the person most likely to have the most sex is a twentysomething, married, Republican Jew with religious doubts, who works long hours. failed his or her doctorate and sits in front of the TV watching the Jazz station all evening, chain-smoking and boozing.

Now suppose that you are a teenage American who wishes, during his or her lifetime, to experience the optimum level of carnality. Were you to helieve that these statistics indicated clear causal (as opposed to correlative) relationships, you would now begin to take action. If you were a gov you would go through the process of conversion to Judaism as soon as was practicable. And once converted, you would stand outside the synagogue on Saturday muttering. "I'm just not sure, Lord!" You would take up smoking at once, and force yourself to drink copious amounts of alcohol until you were fully acclimatised.

As soon as you came home from work or studies - which would be very late - you would flop down in front of the box, taking this opportunity to catch up on the cigarettes and drinks denied you during the day. In the car you would, at all times, play contemporary jazz tapes while complaining loudly about how Bill Clinton is sending the country to hell in a handcart.

When we scrutinise such an itinerary, it does not seem - on the face of it - to be one that holds out the promise of many long nights of writhing physical pleasure. Far from it. Personally, I would not want to sleep with such a person.

So I'd draw one of two very different conclusions from the above scenario. The first is that two surveys have become mixed up and misattributed in the Penn State computer - one on the amount of sexual activity undertaken, and the other on the incidence of early death from heart failure.

The other conclusion is that what we have here is merely a set of random correlations. and that we still have no idea what it all means. Which brings us back. I'm sure you will ngree, to the Welfare debate.

## The best vacations are not an escape, but a liberation



TONKIN **HOLIDAYS OF** THE MIND

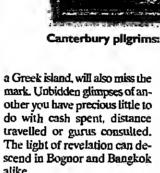
Why travel? This week we have published articles for and against the vogue for visiting foreign places. Our concluding contribuiton argues that it is not where, but how, you travel that really matters.

Back at the start of this decade, when Vincent Van Gogh held his centenary bash, I did my culture-vulture duty and booked timed, dated tickets to the two big shows in Holland, Vincent's graphic works, which ! love almost more than than those over-exposed paintings, were installed at a museum deep in woodland near the German border. And very wonderful they proved to be - vet. oddly, not quite so memorable as the free white bicycles. In a nostalgic nod to the Amsterdam hippies of the Sixties, the surrounding country park offers visitors a fleet of unlocked bikes that you can ride for as long and as far as you want.

I can renew my passion for Vincent's engraved boots or blossoms at any time by opening a book. But I'm still looking for another A-list exhibition with a head-clearing spin attached.

The best travel consists of what Labour's own sultans of spin call "going off-message". It involves moments when you discover that, much as you like traipsing round galleries, you can enjoy a wohhly turn through the forest just as much (or vice versa). It means, in effect, having a holiday from yourself - from the bonds of habit and ego that tether people to their roles at home and work.

The paradox is that you can never plan or purchase these hursts of liberation. The actuary who, expensively kitted out. hecomes a snowboard hero on the Colorado slopes is just buying into someone else's pricey message. That soul-scrubbing mission to the ashram, or to find your inner child in therapy on



to exploit our frets about the yoke of ego in some pretty crass ways. At its crudest, the newladdish (and new-lassish) appeal to a fortnight of bedhopping, with plastered nights under the stars and hungover days haking on the sand, simply sells a mirror-image of nine-to-five drudgery. Turning upside down for a bit before seek. always disappoint, because you can't (as it were) keep it up for ever. Quick-fix hedonism briefly swaps one off-the-peg lifestyle for another. Its hid for short-term freedom stems from the belief that, elsewhere, we will always be in chains.

Hence the familiar despair of the post-vacation Monday hack at work. It's not so much that many people want to hinge in a bar or fry on a beach for 365 days every year as that they fear being slotted back into the usual pigeonholes. So, instead of seeking orgy or oblivion as a reward for 50 weeks of numbed conformity, we could use holidays to experiment with ways of being that may last much longer than the duty-free



Canterbury pligrims: the best travel is always a sort of pilgrimage

This pilot self is the one that dives down that unmarked alleyway, slips into that intriguing café and greets the stranger at your table - the self that risks Travel firms, of course, try a hit of surprise and spontaneity. But, if we really wished, we could manage that in the high street as well as the High

Andes. "Travel: Bad" claimed John Rentoul on this page on Monday. "Travel: Good" riposted Simon Calder the next day. I would argue that mere bodily movement means nothing at all, but that displacement your safe bourgeois routine can trigger the changes that we If you do want to revamp your sense of identity, how to travel matters more than where. It may even be that intrepid

treks in far-flung locations rule out that kind of mental gearchange. Scaling glaciers or dodging crocodiles calls for too much of a vigilant ego to allow for the creative drift that opens new doors in the mind. For that, you need a sense of physical security and a willingness to follow your nose, not your route-map. I feel freest in husy, fairly

prosperous places that don't much care whether I'm around or not. "Escape" to that palmfringed tropical atoll or that quaint rainforest pueblo, and you not only have to act the part of Mr or Ms Rich Won't-Get-Stung Westerner, forever on the

take a starring role in a hundred mortifying little sideshows that dramatise the gulf between the rich and poor worlds. Those ghastly fortress-style resorts in the Caribbean, where the only locals you meet are serving cocktails, merely add insult to injury. If you're happy to carry the misdeeds of the World Bank and the IMF in your suitcase, fine; if not, you may reach a deeper detachment from the cares of home in

Two kinds of voyage illustrate

the sort of self-extension that even quite humdrum holidays can bring. First is the pilgrimage, once a staple trip for European travellers and still - as the hall to Mecca - a central pillar of Islam. As any Chaucer-reader knows, Western pilgrims set out for a range of reasons that stretched from the sacred to the sordid - hut they all knew that the journey happened as much in the mind as on the ground. Recently, the great pilgrim's path to Santiago de Compostella has came back into vogue. Meanwhile, wholly secular opportunities for small

Berlin than in Bogota.

or reflection come dressed up as study trips in search of Pyrenean flora, Cycladic temples or Bulgarian icons.

As for the other sort of inner-directed voyage, you really can try this at home. In France during the 1920s, the Surrealist artists and writers pioneered a form of aimless urban strolling as a boost to their creative inspiration. Wandering around Paris, they hoped that random meetings and sudden insights would open up for them the strange poetry of daily life. Louis Aragon's haunting book Paris Peasant recounts the kind of weird and wonderful encounters that can result from a decision to treat anywhere - and especially your own backyard - as the most exotic spot on earth.

The Surrealists found beauty and mystery in the drahbest city street. In contrast, overearnest, ego-laden voyagers can experience beautiful and mysterious sites as a cliché or a chore. So drop that guidebook, jump on a hike and remember that much of travel like much of sex - takes place purely in the head.

## The New Toryism as preached by Michael Portillo



### PHILLIPS LANGUAGE AND POLITICS

A CONTRACTOR OF You wonder why the Tories bother. In the very week that ney come forward with the revolutionary proposal that their candidate ها. London be selected by a vote of all party members in the capital, Peter Stringfellow, the famous nightclub owner, announces his candidature. Offered the choice between 24hour lap dancing and, say, living m a Jeffrey Archer novel, what do you think the capital's citizens will choose? No contest. may be compulsory in Stringfellow's London.

party's members a say in this and

other big decisions - not least electing the leader - must be causing some furrowed brows down at the Carlton Club, which has carried the torch for Tory traditionalists for centuries. William Hague, when not honeymooning or boogying on down in Notting Hill, has had little to say about policy; having nailed the issue of Europe down, he is husy reconstructing the Tory house. He is evidently following the sound advice of those Tories who pleaded for a period of silence after the election. No one really wants to hear much from a party that is unlikely to be able affect the price of cheese this side of the millennium. But specific policies are not

all. What a party feels like is nt certain stages far more important. Organisation matters; but the stuff you pour into the bottle - the party's culture - is what voters respond to. New Labour's leaders' choice of language tough, conservative - should have warned us all that they would not behave like Labour governments of the 1970s, ready to blow with the wind of popular sentiment. Indeed, as some of my friends in the arts world discovered this week, this Government positively delights in demonstrating its robustness in the face of old-style appeals not to abandon the needs of a civilised society. "Civilisation". sented most eve-catchingly by Treasury ministers seem to be saying, "is what you can pay for. now, stop whingeing." The Tonies have to find their "feel"

The letter from the Tory grandees to this newspaper. quarrelling with Mr Hague's suppression of debate on Europe, was the wrong feel. It made them look like men locked in a war that the rest of the world had forgotten. It is true that Europe divided the Con-

the signature of Chris Patten. He is still a hrooding presence on the Christian Democratic wing of the party, said to be just waiting for Hague to stumble. But his involvement here, plus his improbable interest in running London, are signs of an uneasy spirit, worried about being forgotten, yet unsure about how in find his way hack to the limelight. He does not represent the future of the Tories; but if not him, then who?

#### Remember, in the 1960s it was the Tories who were the fun party, they could be so again.

servative Party, and that perception played a part in their defeat. However, it was not simply the fact of the division. hut that it was over an issue that most of the British public feel is done and dusted. Sooner or later we will join: that's the fact of our life in the global economy, and the timing and detail is for our politicians to work out. The argument is over.

of New Toryism emerging from Hague's own kitchen. But there is a tantalising odour of something exoric wafting our way from Entield. Mr Michael Portillo has been back to the larder and has been rummaging around to see what ingredients he can ofter to entice the missing millions. In his speech this week, he brought out the old staple, opposition to any progress For some Tories, though. towards European integration: this was the assembly of the great but he wrapped it in some new One-Nation tradition, repre-

Thus far, there is no flavour

phrases, dealing with Britain's place in a global economy.

Where Labour may begin to seem grimly defensive on the international stage, Portillo is beginning to paint a picture of the UK as a centre of global trading, open to all, and able to span the world unencumhered by any regional attachments. On welfare, he assounded many by his speech at the last party conference, appealing for Tories to be understanding and humane; welfare mothers could be safer in his world. Even the Portillo groupies, such as the journalist Simon Heffer, are being driven to wonder aloud if they are truly hearing these words from the master's voice.

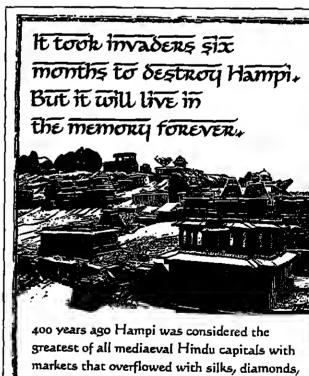
But Portillo has never been a simple proposition. He is not a pantomine Tory villain - family background, his age, his inrellect all separate him from the old Tory right. Now, freed from the factions that kept his party riven, he is able to imagine a new

culture for his party. The Tory party, so long yoked to the old Powellite obsession with English values, could become as internationalist as it was in the nineteenth century (in its imperialist mode); it could be the champion of relaxed libertarian values against a government that too often gives off a whiff of puritan self-righteousness; it could be the party that stands up

for the rights of the individual in the face of Labour's tendency towards grim corporatism. Remember, in the 1960s, it was the Tories who were the fun party; they could be so again. In their final years of government, they may have appeared to be enjoying themselves a little too much at the expense of others; but the nation, as we approach the millennium, is ready to hang loose and have a good time - and laughing along is a luxury oppositions have that governments don't always enjoy.

I know that some of you felt

I myself should have been more relaxed over the John Motson affair. However, the BBC has sent me the text of a full apology for the incident issued by Motty. It is indeed full and unreserved. However, in miogation, he points out that he does not only have problems with blacks; he now finds it difficult to identify the Italian player Gianfranco Zola because of his new haircut. Personally, I'm prepared to leave the whole affair at a yellow card; but for the commentator's sake, I just hope that Mr Zola's barber is not offended; after all he might just be from Sieily, and the traditional Sicilian response to personal slights leaves the average Vinnie Jones tackle looking like a



razed to the ground by invading forces. But although this mighty civilization has disappeared, the ruins and remains live on as a world heritage site. Now visitors take the train journey from Bombay or Bangalore to relive what has been aptly termed The Pompei of India, to visit the Bazaar, its museums, the Lotus Palace and the extraordinary Vittalla Temple. Hampi is a glorious memory. It will live in your mind forever.

rubies and emeralds. In 1565 it was systematically

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## Pastor Georgi Vins

of his family) gradually settled

down to the very different life

of an exile, making the town of

Elkhart in Indiana his home and

slowly learning English. He re-

ceived invitations to the White

House and to innumerable

events around the world. At first

there was hot competition be-

tween missions supporting per-

kept his distance. He eventual-

tight-knit congregations that

categorically rejected any com-

promises with the Soviet au-

thornies and refused to register



Photograph: Keston College

Georgi Petrovich Vins, pastor: born Blagoveshchensk. Siberia 4 August 1928, married (one son, three daughters); died Elkhart, Indiana ti January 1998.

Georgi Vins hit the world's headlines twice -- when he was sentenced in 1975 for his work as a leader of the Baptist churches that resisted Soviet government controls and again in April 1979 when he was dramatically expelled from the Soviet Union with four other dissidents in exchange for two secuted churches in the Soviet spies convicted in the United Union to enlist him, but Vins

The events surrounding his by set up the international repexpulsion were hizarre. On 26 resentation of the Baptist April 1979 he was woken up in churches in the Soviet Union prison and told to change into that owed their allegiance to the his own clothes. Completely Council of Churches, a group of unaware of his imminent change of circumstances, he was flown to Moscow for what would he his last night on Soviet soil, which he spent on bare officially. Their members were boards in a centre for vagrants. suffering fierce persecution, The following day he was issued with new clothes and informed or psychiatric hospitals. by an official who refused to give his name that because of ian Far East in 1928 to Peter his anti-Soviet activity the Vins, an American citizen of Presidium of the Supreme Soviet had stripped him of his So- elled to Siberia just two years viet citizenship. He was being before as a missionary. His

Vins protested in vain that his activity was not anti-Soviet, rearrested. The family was latbut had to bow to the mevitable. er informed he had died. The

He was told to write down the young Georgi was brought up names of his close relatives so by his mother, Lydia. that they could leave the coun-After the Second World War try with him and, realising that the two of them moved to Kiev

he would be unlikely to see and Georgi qualified as an enthem again otherwise, listed gineer. He also became inhis wife, children, mother and volved in the Baptist Church niece. He was driven to Leforthere. It was as Khrushchev's tovo prison and then all five ex- anti-religious persecutions bepellees were taken to Moscow gan in 1959 that the state tried airport. Two American embassy to impose new regulations on officials on the plane explained the Baptist Church that drastithat their release followed an cally curtailed the small measure agreement between the White of independence they enjoyed. House and the Soviet embassy As the Baptist movement split in Washington. It was not until acrimoniously. Vins hecame the plane landed in New York one of the leading figures in the that they learnt they were becampaign to resist state pressure. He publicly opposed the ing exchanged for two convictpastor of his own congregation ed spies, and the handover in Kiev who had accepted the took place in an isolated hangar at Kennedy airport. The five new measures. Vins formed his walked off the plane at one end own breakaway congregation. becoming its pastor despite his while the spies walked on at lack of theological qualifica-Once in the United States, tions. The group had to meet in Vins (and six weeks later the rest a forest outside Kiev.

When the Council of Churches was formally set up as an underground body in 1965, Vins hecame its general secretary. Himdreds of the movement's followers were already in prison. In an astonishing protest, Baptists converged from all over the Soviet Union for a mass demonstration outside the Central Committee huilding in Moscow. Several Central Committee with other leaders to ask about the fate of those who had been detained at the unprecedented demonstration. They were themselves arrested. Vins and another colleague finally went on trial in November 1966 and he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, His wife, Nadezhda, was left to look after their

with hundreds in labour camps After release, Vins resumed his work as pastor and organ-Vins was born in the Russiser of the movement, but soon had to go into hiding to avoid arrest. He was finally treatment was unsuccessful. Russian origin who had travdiscovered and seized in March 1974. Prodded by the humanrights campaigner Andrei said. "But if not and God calls father was arrested in 1930. Sakharov, the World Council of me to Heaven, I won't he freed three years later but soon Churches finally joined the international protests at Vins'

arrest. Vins was tried in Kiev in January 1975 and sentenced to five years in labour camp to he followed by five years' internal exile, hecoming the Soviet Union's most famous religious prisoner. International pressure finally led to his dramatic expulsion from his homeland.

Vins' work aiding Baptist victims of persecution changed dramatically in the late 1980s. when open Christian work became possible. In 1990 President Gorbachev revoked the decree that had stripped Vins of his Soviet citizeoship, thereby allowing him to revisit his homeland. In the 1990s Vins made numernus preaching trips, especially in Russia and Ukraine. In 1995 he was allowed access in Moscow to his father's KGB case file, and it was with mixed emotions that Vins finally learnt that his father had been executed in 1936. But reading the record of his father's interrogation he realised that throughout his own hattles with the Soviet authorities he had heen following in his father's

Vins was a thoughtful leader Amos Blackmore (Junior with a certain presence. Although he had taken a hard line over the split in the Baptist Union in the early 1960s, he latdays later. Vins went to the er felt a little uncomfortable with the aggressively uncompromising stand taken by many of his former colleagues. Splits within the Council of Churches over the past few years caused him much sadness and he was unhappy with those in to the gutter and gave it a fire Russia who called themselves and passion that made one

inoperable hrain tumour, he faced up to it with courage. He had already successfully undergone heart bypass surgery in the late 1980s, but this time "The Lord is powerful and could shrink my tumour," he



Wells at the London Blues Festival, 1995

## **Junior Wells**

Wells), vocalist and harmonica player: born Memphis, Tennessee 9 December 1934; died Chicago t5 January 1998.

The virtuoso Larry Adler took the harmonica to the concert hall and gave it respectability. Junior Wells took it right hack think the instrument would When he discovered late hurst at the seams. The mouth last year that he had a malignant organ is a compromised musical hybrid and only Adler had the immense talent to make it nior Parker, then local heroes larger than its limitations. The tight-knit group of Chicago hluesmen to which Wells helooged used it for a more prac-

tical reason: it was cheap to huy. The rent party is an institution unknown in this country. Impoverished hlack Americans raise money to pay their rent people would organise parties and charge guests admission. Food, drink and music would be provided. Newly arrived in Chicago in 1946, Junior Wells made his living playing hlues at such gatherings.

The Chicago hlues style was unique. It brought the rural bhies to the city and added electrical amplification not just to the guitars, but also to the mouth harps, as the harmonica was known. The music was harsh and intense. Wells had been influenced as

a child by Howlin' Wolf and Juin Memphis. In Chicago he formed the Three Aces, building on his success with the group until 1952 when Muddy Waters, the city's leading hlues player, asked him to replace another mouth harp player, Little Walter, in his hand. Ironically have held rent parties since the Little Walter then joined the - Felix Corley heginning of the century. To Aces. Wells was called into the

army in 1953 but absented himself to rejoin Muddy Waters and to record with him. He returned to sort out his difficulties with the army and reformed the Aces on his discharge in 1955.

His partnership with the guitarist Buddy Guy, formed in 1958, established the two as a force outside Chicago and with Wells's alhum Hoodoo Man in 1966 he became famous worldwide. Records made by Wells and Guy influenced the members of the Rolling Stones and the two men toured Europe with the group in 1970. Although they became in demand for festivals at home and abroad and won various awards (Wells was nominated for a Grammy) the two

always returned to Chicago. Before he became ill last September Wells had completed scenes for the film Blues Brothers 2000 and also recorded a track for a tribute alhum to the Rolling Stones, Paint It Blue.

## **Francis Skinner**

Russell Thomas Francis Skinner, architect: born Kuala Lumpur 13 October 1908; married 1966 Josephine Wadey (une daughter); died Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk 6 January 1998.

Francis Skinner was the last surviving of the seven original members of Tecton, the pioneering architectural practice formed under Berthold Lubetkin in 1932 that dominated the formative period of the Modern Movement in Britain. Skinner Skinner: drawn by his wife was Lubetkin's closest colleague, who shared and supported his charismatic partner's belief in modern architecture as an

instrument of social progress. Born in Kuala Lumpur the sisters. Francis Skinner was



maternal aunt in Reading, Entering the Architectural Association in 1927 he hecame disenchanted with the traditionalist teaching and focused eldest of three brnthers and two on the radical developments in Europe, many of which he had "sent home" to England at an visited by 1930. A contemporary early age in be brought up by a recalls him reducing an AA stu-

dio master to tears in a school composed entirely of exposed RSJs. His first building, a prizewinning reinforced concrete house for the Modern Homes Exhibition at Gidea Park was completed in 1934 when he was only 26.

deeply engaged in the political retary and driving force of the Architects & Technicians Organisation, which campaigned for better housing conditions also active in the AASTA (Association of Architects, Surveyors and Technical Assistants) and ABT (Association of Building Technicians), which promoted unionisation of building workers and salaried staff.

This activity was all purcrit with his scheme for a Flo-sued alongside his work in Tecrentine Renaissance church ton where, as for Lubetkin, his political and professional aspirations converged most closely in the work for Finshury Council, beginning with the Health Centre completed in 1938 and now listed Grade I. The same year Skinner visited Spain to "Freddie" Skinner was study the effects of aerial bomhardment in the Civil War, his struggles of the 1930s, being a findings contributing to Tecton's committed member of the controversial scheme of deep Communist Party and the sec- bomb-proof shelters for Finshury. Though these eventually came to nothing his knowledge was re-applied during the Second World War when he served and huilding practices. He was with the Royal Engineers and volunteered for bomh disposal

> Tecton's work resumed after Paddington and Hulford Square.

duties too dull.

Skinner seeing through the structure, very persuasive with Finshury schemes during Lubetkin's tenure at Peterlee. Skinner declined an invitation from Le Corbusier to join him at Chandigarh in 1950 hut continued with major housing developments in Bethnal Green. Hackney and Southwark in the reformed firm of Skinner, Bailey & Lubetkin. This arrangement, whereby Skinner played a key hut generally unacknowledged role in running the practice, enabled Lubetkin to remain professionally active during the period when he is widely but mistakenly supposed to have forsaken architecture for farming.

Francis Skinner, the only founding member of Tecton to work, having found routine stay with Lubetkin for his entire professional life, once described his celebrated partner as "the the war with the housing pro- most complete architect you jects at Spa and Priory Green, could imagine - a hrilliant designer, knowledgeable about

clients and a good organiser". But he modestly omitted to mention the qualities he himself brought to their association that made it so durable - a critical appreciation of Lubetkin's vision, a comparable aesthetic sensibility and the inexhaustible dedication and tenacity needed to produce huildings of lasting significance. Their compatible personalities and the complementary nature of their gifts resulted in a unique body of work that neither could have achieved on his own.

Skinner retired in the 1970s to Suffolk, where he continued with various personal projects, including teaching himself Russian and making an extensive study of historic houses and castles. Typically, he approached these not from a sentimental or tourist perspective hut as man- and true. ifestations of Britain's social

structure and political development. With his wife Jo, a professional artist and accomplished geologist, he would embark on several tours each year. carefully planned around the locations of their objectives - a series of buildings in his case, a group of fossil sites in hers. Their mutual devotion accommodated these different interests with characteristic generosity, travelling in separate camper vans to pre-agreed destinations where they would reunite each evening to discuss the day's exploits.

Behind Francis Skinner's mnate reticence lay unshakeable egalitarian ideals and a profound belief in the essential humanism of art and science. The very embodiment of George Orwell's phrase "the crystal spirit", he was steadfast, gentle

- John Allan

# **Moores**

Ian Richard Moores. footballer: born Silverdak Staffordshire 5 October 1954: played for Stoke City 1972-76. Tottenham Hotspur 1976-78. Orient 1978-82, Bolton Wanderers 1982-83, Barnsley (on loan) 1983; married (two sons); died Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire 12 January 1998.

There was a time when hig. hlond, bewhiskered Ian Moores was being touted as an England centre-forward in the making

Indeed, while cutting a dash with his first professional club. Stoke City, in the mid-1970s, he made two international appearances at under-23 level. But, having achieved a seemingly ideal career move to Tottenham Hotspur, Moores faded disappointingly from the limelight.

Moores made his senior début for the Potters, then a force in the old First Division and one of the most entertaining sides in the land, in April 1974. The next season, though not a regular member of the team, he learnt quickly from such immensely gifted colleagues as Jimmy Greenhoff and Alan Hudson, and played a telling part in the cluh's impressive League form. Had the City squad been extensive enough to cope with an injury crisis of crippling proportions, the 20-year-old Moores might have pocketed a

championship medal. He attracted attention from a host of leading clubs, and after he had played what was to prove the most compelling football of his life during the subsequent campaign, earning his international recognition in the process, he joined Spurs for £75,000 in August 1976.

Now came a period of golden opportunity for Moores and he began with a goal in a stirring victory against Manchester United at Old Trafford. But although his aerial power was fearsome and sometimes he could apply a delicate touch that was surprising in such a strapping fellow, too often he appeared cumbersome and gauche. With the north Londoners suffering relegation from the top flight at the end of his first term at White Hart Lane, the fans to fall. There was one memorable day in the Second Division when he contributed a hattrick to Tottenham's 9-0 trouncing of Bristol Rovers, hut such bounty was rare.

In October 1978, with hopes of full England honours long gone, Moores accepted a £55.000 switch to Second Division Orient (as Leyton Orient were called at the time), whom he served competently for four seasons, usually at centre-forward but occasionally in midfield. He was released when the Os were demoted in 1982, going on to brief stints with Bolton Wanderers and Barnsley (on loan) and a spell with Apoel in Cyprus. Thereafter several non-League clubs and Landskronage Bols of Sweden afforded hum hie outlets for the talents of a man for whom expectations had once been so high.

-- Ivan Ponting

#### Annuncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EH 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT ex-tra). OTHER Gazette annunce-

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#### Lectures TODAY

National Gallery: Rebecca Drew, "Home and Heath (iii): Velázquez, Kitchen Scene with Christ in the House of Martha and Mary, 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Alex Buck, "Craft and Guild Workshops 1860-1920", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury.

"Five Thousand Words on Minimalism", 1pm. British Museum: Delia Pemberton, "A Journey Through the Under-world: ancient Egyptian views of the

afterlife", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Paul Webb. "Victorian Theatrical and Musical Personalities", 3pm.

Changing of the Guard
TODAY: The Household Carelry Mounted Regiment recuests the Queen's Life Guard at Horse
Guards, 11.2m; Nijmegen Contpany Grenadier
Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckinglean Palace, 11.30m, band provided by the Inish
Guards, TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mores the Queen's Life
Guard at Horse Guards, 10am.

#### Birthdays

TODAY: Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Consultant and Chargé de Mission to the UN Secretary-General, 65; Mr Muhammad Ali, former boxing champion, 56; Sir John Boyd, for-mer ambassador to Japan, 62; Lord Carter, Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords, 65; Mr Christopher Crabbie, ambassador to Romania, 52: Sir Mervyn Davies, former High Court Judge, 80; Sir Edward Fennessy, radar pioneer, 86; Mrs Monica Furlong, writer, 68; Mr Neil Gamble, Headmaster, Exeter School, 55, Mr Damian Green MP, 41; Mile Françoise Hardy, singer and song-writer, 54, Mr Anthony Kenney, consultant obstetrician and gynae-cologist, 56; The Right Rev Nigel Mc-Culloch, Bishop of Wakefield, 56, Mr Kenneth Minton, chairman, John Mowlem, 61: Sir Geoffrey Pattie, for-mer MP, 62: Professor William Robertson, pathologist, 75; Mr Vidal Sassoon, hair stylist, 70; Miss Moira Shearer, former ballerina, 72; Mr Richard Smethurst, Provost, Worces-ter College, Oxford, 57; Sir Ctyde Walcott, Chairman, International Cricket Council, 72; Dame Gillian Weir, concert organist, 57; Mr Paul Ynung, singer, 42. TOMORROW: Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, 65; Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 77: Mr Peter Beardsley, footballer, 37; Dr David Bellamy, botanist, 65; Sir Michael Bett, First Civil Service Commissioner, 63; Mr John Boorman, film director, 65; Mr Raymond

Briggs, author and illustrator, 64; Mr

David Burke, Chief Constable, North

Yorks, 59; Mr John Carr, former

Chairman, Countryside Commis-

sion of Scotland, 71; Mr Iain Cole-

man MP, 39; Mr Kevin Costner, actor,

43: Mr Richard Dunwoody, jockey,

34; Mr Christian Fittipaldi, racing dri-ver, 27; The Hon Sir Rocco Forte, for-mer chairman, Forte, 53; Mr Paul eman, actor, 55; Lord Goodhart QC, 65; Mr David Grant, former Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Durham. 76: Miss Dawn Guinness, former Headmistress, Felipstowe College, 52; Sir James Hann, chairman, Hickson International, 65; Sir William Harding, former diplomat, 71; Sir Robert Hicks, former MP, 60; Lord Higgins, former MP, 70; Mr John Hougham, Chairman, Acas, 61: Lord Howell of Guildford, former government min-ister, 62: Mr John Hume MP, MEP, 61: Mr Edward James, former diplo mat, St. Dame Jennifer Jenkins former Chairman, the National Trust. 77; Mr Paul Keating, former prime minister of Australia, 54; Mr Martin Laing, chairman, John Laing, 56; Sir Godfray Le Quesne, Judge of Courts nf Appeal, Jersey and Guernsey, 74; Mr Mark Rylance, artistic director, speare's Globe Theatre, 38; Sin Walter Verco, former Secretary, Order of the Garter, 91; Sir Ralph Verney, former Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, 83; Sir Clive Whit-more, former Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, 63; Sir Alan Whittome, former director, Exchange and Trade Relations Department, IMF, New York, 72

#### **Anniversaries**

TODAY: Births: Anne Bronte ("Acton Bell"), novelist, 1820; Al (Alphonse) Capone, gangster, 1899. Deaths: Tomaso Giovanni Alhinoni, composer, 1751. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony the Abbot. St Genulf or Genou, St Julian Sabas. St Richimir, St Sabinus of Piacenza, Saints Spensippus, Eleusippus and Meleusippus and St Sulpicius II or

#### FAITH & REASON

## 'No room at the Dome for Jesus.' Quite right too

Peter Mandelson has assured church leaders that Christianity will be central to his millennial celebrations. Huw Spanner wonders whether that is such a good idea.

There are calls from many quarters for a strong showing of Christianity in the Millennium Experience. "Nn room at the Dome for Jesus," complains the Daily Telegraph. "Whose millennium is it anyway?" ask others (somewhat disingenuously, since Christ's 2,000th birthday falls in 2001, even if you accept the glass windows to "rave" worship. official birthdate). Even the Bishop of Oxford has joined in.

ease. Perhaps it is just a question of cootext: Christians who regret that religion is listed under leisure pursuits in gov- thentic, and any account of its impact ernment surveys of social treods may on our history is dishonest if it does not regret even more if it becomes a "di- acknowledge the bad as much as the mension" of a lottery-funded, corporatesponsored designer celebration of ... Of the building of cathedrals, it must also what? No one yet knows. What hopes take the hlame for the burning of or dreams or New Millennium resolu- "witches" (though both were prohably tions the nation is supposed to embrace as much the product of superstition or

revealed amounts to "I have seen the future and it's playing surfball."

In any event, how could Christianity be exhibited there? How could you advertise the Celestial City in Vanity Fair? The values that the Dome seems already to emhody - style before substance, pleasure before commitment. pride in our own achievements and a good feeling about our selves - stand in contradiction of the values of the Sermon on the Mount. One suspects that Jesus's legacy as interpreted in the Experience would anyway be a matter of the cultural epbemera: from stained-

And what do we mean by Christianity? To the vast majority of people, But the prospect inspires a vague un- it is a human construct, a system (or muddle) of beliefs and practices. In that sense, every manifestation of it is augood. If Christianity is given credit for in Mandelson's Dome remain a mystery. local politics as of anything else). Is ties or the Eighties, but the magic of the 'Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Vallely

As much of his "vision" as he has so far this historical curate's egg what the faithful want to celebrate?

But Christianity itself claims not to be a human construct hut to be truth, single and unchanging though imperfectly understood. On its own terms, it cannot be a mixed hlessing, because everything that is wrong (in any sense) is by definition foreign to it: anything or anyone that does not hear good fruit is not truly Christian. This is the account that most believers would want to give -but in the hyped-up atmosphere of the Dome it would sound like so much more corporate PR. And there is another factor to complicate any official celehration of the true essence of Christianity: it is God who judges what is good and what is true, and his judgements are not yet revealed. And no doubt they'll be very different from ours.

Why are people so anxious that the Experience should have a Christian element? One reason, perhaps, is that as we leave the 20th century and the second millennium behind, the feeling will be strong that we are closing a chapter (if not a book) and beginning a fresh one. The dawning of a new age may not have seemed very convincing in the Six-

number 2000 will create a more powerful illusion. On 1 January that year, even the day before will seem like ancient history; it's the future that will fill our horizons. Christianity can easily be presented in that context as a relic of yesterday, whilst science and technology and the 101 ways we can now amuse ourselves to death can be proclaimed as tomorrow's world.

How, then, can Christians demonstrate that true religion is a thing of the present and the future, where we should go and not just where we have come from? Perhaps the most effective exhibition at the turn of the millennium would be for the churches to sell off everything not essential to the practice of the faith - all the pomp and the palaces and the accumulated treasure of centuries of not obeying the teachings of Jesus - and use the proceeds to write off Mozambique's foreign debt. And perhaps they could do it in 2001. It would give the rest of us a year to observe, once the glittering surface of the new millennium is a little scratched, that human nature never changes. And nor does the challenge of the Sermon on the Mount.

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#### Flight to quality sends blue chips soaring MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Shares, at least the blue-chip variety, were given every encouragement to put on an impressive display-and did not disappoint.

With Asian markets looking stronger, New York putting on a positive show and the monthly futures expiry going so smoothly it was almost unnoticed the stock market was confident and relaxed.

The so called "flight to quality", prompted by Asian alarms, are distinctly possible. has directed even more attention on blue chips, particularly those with little, if any, Asian exposure.

In busy trading Footsie its first century for five weeks. At the close the score had heeo trimmed to 97.3 at 5,263.1.

Vodafone, reflecting a mixture of trading and take over hopes, with Argos registering disapled the blue chip charge with a 34p jump to 483p. But it was a pitiful time for the constituents

rightly or wrongly, at the door of the market makers of BZW

They had been told to end the week, it was alleged, with balanced books and found themselves forced to cut some of their positions.

With BZW. now part of Credit Suisse First Boston and suffering the indignity of redundancies, such manoeuvres Groups with extensive Far

Eastern exposures also missed the party. Rolls-Royce dived 7.5p to 206p and British Aerospace was lowered 11p to surged 111.0 points to 5,277.2, 1,605p. BTR found yet another new low, off 5.75p to 160p and engineer Siebe gave up 47p to

> Retailers had a mixed time pointment with its festive display, falling 63p to 442p, lowest

for two years.

The blame for their lack- dine continued, down 6p to 20p. lustre performance was laid. In the summer of 1996 the price touched 219p as hopes bloomed that new chief executive Ann Iverson would restore the group's fortunes. She left the

company in November. Said one dealer: "Investors are bailing out while the company is still in business". Dixons remained depressed on its sales misadventure, falling a further 7p to 498p. The shares have lost 84p since Wednesday's downbear comments.

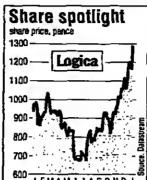
Supermarkets had another eveotful session with Asda jumping 8p to 195p in heavy trading. Take over rumours continued to swirl but the activity could have been due to the futures expiry. There was also talk of US buying interest.

Safeway, Asda's suspected target, added 11.25p to 366p and Tesco hardened 11p to 512p. On Monday it will become the first major supermarket chain to pronounce on Christmas trading.

The fledgling IT sector had another rip roaring session as fund managers were forced to increase their exposure. Logica jumped 77.5 to a 1,287.5p peak and Sage 35p to 952.5p.

Disappointing figures from City Centre Restaurants took a 15.5p hite out of the shares at WPP, the advertising group,

responded to a Merrill Lynch upgrading with a 9p advance to



Rentokil Initial, the envi- the shares closing a little firmer ronmental and property services group, hardened 9.5p to 295p as Sophus Berendseo, the Danish company which once had a cootrolling stake, split itself into two. SB retains the trading on a multitude of developactivities, ranging from elecper cent of Reotokil. A new

tronics to textile services, and 3.6 company, Ratin, which like SB will be quoted on the Copenhageo stock market, will hold 32.2 per cent of Rentokil Fears have been expressed that the new Danish company could

hostile take over strike emerged. On the take over froot Sibir Energy improved 3.5p to 44p as Pentex, which has 40 per cent, opened hid talks with the Siberian oil explorer because it has "become apparent to the management that the two companies would need to be merged". Pentex floated Sibir last year.

make Reotokil vulnerable if a

Manchester Utd. was the

#### TAKING STOCK

at 158p. Volume was nearly 17

million with some chunky lines

going through at around 155p.

nology Group which is working

ments and inventions, including

a revolutionary gearbox.

jumped 40p to 722.5p ahead of

a rumoured investment recep-

tion last night for the group's

was Compagnie de Participa-

tions Financieres, a Luxem-

bourg registered company

operating in the German prop-

erty industry. One of the more

obscure AIM shares, it

slumped 190p to 307.5p after

a hitter dispute between the

board and the company's main

shareholder came into the

open. Two directors have quit

and the rest will depart after a

shareholders meeting next

month. It came to AIM just

The day's biggest casualty

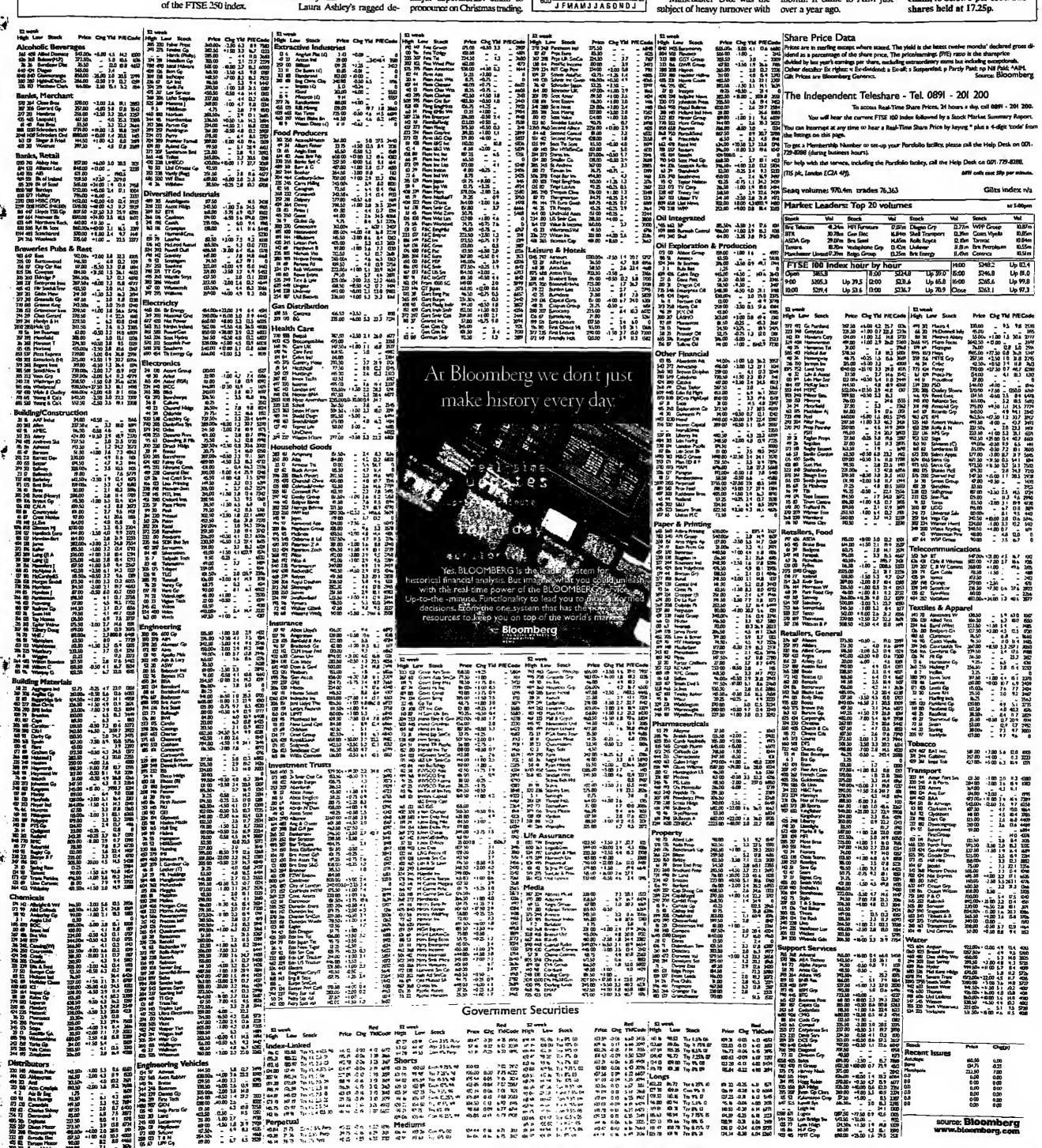
major investors.

BTG, the old British Tech-

Nord Anglia, the education group, jumped 39p top a 319p peak, after buying a New Zealand college. The shares arrived a year ago at 140p, falling to 132.5p before starting their surge. The company should be a beneficiary of the Government's privatisation plans for failed schools. Stockbroker Henry Cooke Lumsden is bullish. It forecasts profits of £2.7m this year with £3.1m slotted in for the following year.

Aukett Associates, a building design practice, improved 0.5p to 5.5p as directors, including chairman Gerry Deighton, purchased 300,000 shares. Stockbroker Ellis & Partners forecast earning per share will increase from 0.56p to 0.71p this year.

Robert Earl, the restaurant tycooo who runs Planet Hollywood, has cot his stake in Pembertons, the wice bar chain, to below 3 per ceot. The shares held at 17.25p.



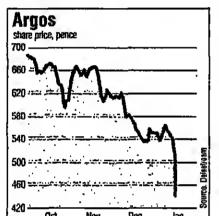
## Poor Christmas at **Argos prompts** job cutbacks

Argos, the catalogue retailer, is cutting 230 jobs as part of a 'fundamental review of costs' after it reported disappointing Christmas sales for the second year running. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on the decline of a former stock market star.

Argos shares fell by 12.5 per cent yesterday after the company said like for like sales in the five weeks to 27 December fell by 1.5 per cent. The company blamed a poor performance in toys, electricals and the jewellery/clocks and watches category. Sales in these three ranges, which account for half of Argos' sales in the run-up to Christmas, fell by five per cent on last year. Argos shares closed 63p lower at 442p. They stood at almost 800p little more than a year ago.

Analysts said Argos had also suffered from a revitalised Woolworths which competes directly against it in areas such as toys. The figures were particularly disappointing, as Argos had added more sales staff this year to prevent the long queues that caused the company problems last Christmas, analysts said.

"It has raised significant concerns both in the City and within the company itself," said Ashley Thomas at SG Securities. "The fact that they are planning a series



of initiatives suggests the tougher trading conditions are here to stay."

Argos is just the latest in a string of downbeat announcements from retailers this week, suggesting that the early post-Christmas optimism form the high street was mis-placed. There have been profits warnings from Laura Ashley and La Senza as well as poor figures from Sears and House of Fraser.

Some said the downbeat trading update would increase pressure on the company to return its cash pile to shareholders rather than gear up for an acquisition. "Given they are operating in a mature market, people may like to see some cash coming hack,"

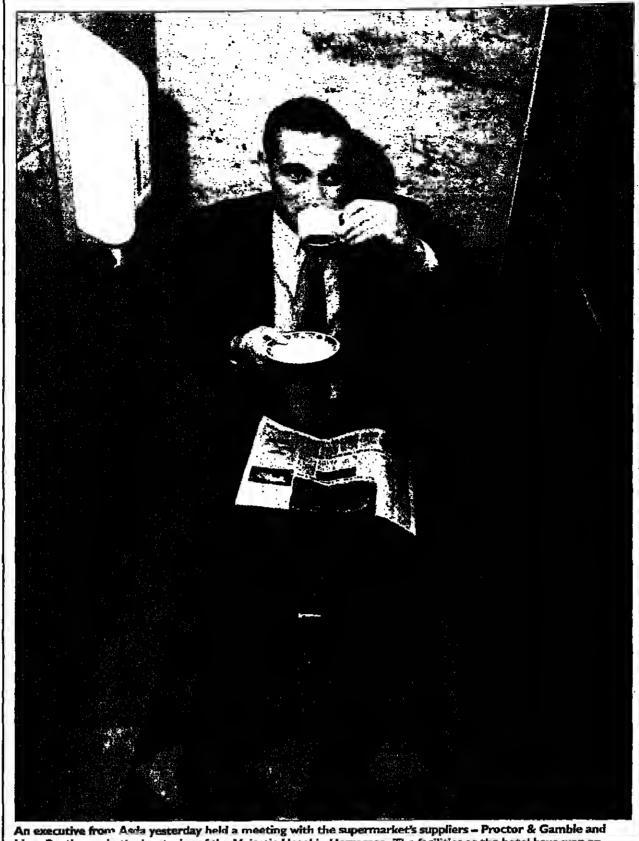
Argos had average net cash of £137m last year. It returned £93m to sharcholders in 1996 through a 40p per share spe-

As part of cost cutting programme designed to free up resources for investment elsewhere in the group. Argos is to cut 100 jobs at its Milton Keynes head office and 130 at its Welwyn Garden City warehouse, which is being closed. However, the company is to create 1,000 jobs this year as part of a programme to open 31 new

It also plans to pilot a home shopping service in August. Under this system, any product in stock can be ordered and paid for over the telephone and delivered to the customers' home or picked up at the shop within 24 hours of ordering. Argos home shopping service will be rolled out nationally in 1999. The service is expected to be loss-making this year but to turn in a profit in its first full year of operation. Additional costs will be incurred for new telephone systems, a call centre and a delivery

Analysts downgraded this year's profits from £146m to around £125m, after exceptionals. For the following year some have downgraded from £165m to

The company said 1997's profits would be affected by investments in its new Dutch business, costing £3m, and £7m of additional provisions related to the costcutting exercise. This is expected to reduce costs by £7m a year.



Liver Brothers - in the lavatories of the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate. The facilities at the hotel have won an Photograph: Nigel Hillier/UNP award for high standards

## PIA 'names and shames' five firms

Five leading firms offering independent financial advice were "named and shamed". by the Personal Investment Authority, the industry's watchdog, yesterday.

The action came as Helen Liddell, the. Economic Secretary, warned that there would be no let-up in the quest for redress in the £4bn pensions mis-selling scandal.

The PIA's announcement, sparked by the apparent failure of the five companies to meet the latest regulatory deadline, was an embarrassment for two leading figures in UK financial services.

It was the second "naming and shaming" for DBS Financial, chaired by Ken Davy, once a PIA board member. Countrywide Independent, run by Jim Gaskin, also numbered among the five companies now potentially facing hefty PIA fines. Mr Gaskin is a former deputy chief executive of Fimbra, the financial services regulator.

Burns Anderson Independent, Financial Options and IFA Network were also named by the PIA.

All five firms apparently failed to meet the PIA's requirement that 90 per cent of priority cases should be resolved by the end of 1997.

Commenting on the announcement, Ms Liddell said companies failing to meet deadlines "must face the consequences". She warned there would be "no let-up - from the Government or the regulators". Fortyone firms, including the five named yesterday, are being monitored by the Economic Secretary. These firms have now resolved over half the cases identified for review.

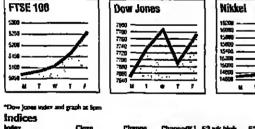
Separately, the Association of British Insurers (ABI) announced yesterday that five product providers had failed to meet misselling deadlines.

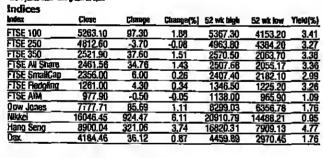
Guardian Royal Exchange, Reliance Mutual, Royal Liver, GAN Life and Sun Life of Canada failed to resolve 90 per cent of top priority cases by the end of 1997. But regulatory action is unlikely as the five product providers only narrowly missed targets and had made strenuous efforts to meet regulatory deadlines.

To date, the pensions review has led the PIA to impose fines totalling £2m. DBS Financial one of the five financial adviser firms named yesterday, was fined £425,000 last September and said yesterday "every reasonable endeavour has been made to comply with the PIAs timetable".

- Lea Paterson

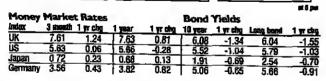
#### STOCK MARKETS





#### INTEREST RATES

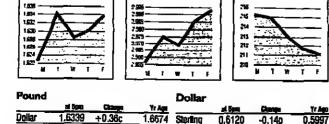




#### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chy (p)	% Chiga	Falls	Price (p)	City (p)	% Chga
Vodaphone Grp	483.00	34.00	7.57	Argos	442.00	-63.00	-12.48
Natl Westminster		74.00	7.43	Mckechnie	395.50	-43.50	-9.91
Logica BTG	1287.50	77.50	6.40	SIG	205.5	-20	-8.67
BTG	722.50	40.00	5.88	BICC	144	-13.5	-8.57

#### CURRENCIES



#### OTHER INDICATORS

211.02 -¥1.65

* pt 5 pm	Cloca	Clay	Yr Ago		hder	Chg	Yr ego	Head Sign
Brent Oil (\$)	14.73	-0.11	23.34	GOP	113.90	3.70	109.84	Feb
Gold (\$)	285.40	2.70	354,55	API	160.00	3.60	154.44	Feb
Silver (\$)	5.89	0 10	4.68	Base R	ates	7.25	6.00	

## Battle expected to delay launch of competition in electricity industry

John Battle, the energy minister, is next week expected to announce a delay of up to six months to the launch of competition in the domestic electricity market. Michnel Harrison reports on the latest setback in plans to liberalise the sector.

Mr Battle is to meet the heads of the 12 regional electricity companies (Recs) and the two Scottish power producers on Thursday to consider a report from PA Consulting, the advisers to Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity reg-

The report is widely expected to conclude that he has no option hut to delay the launch of competition because of problems with computer systems and the failure of a

ready on time.

The original timetable envisaged competition heginning in April in a limited number of areas and then being phased in throughout the country by September.

It is now possible that the none of the country's 23 million electricity consumers will be able to start shopping around for suppliers until September at the earliest. If the system is not ready in April then financial penalties, levied by Professor Littlechild, will come into effect.

An argument has been raging within the industry as to whether the delay should be three or six months. However, all hut two of the Recs, Eastern and Seeboard, have told PA Consulting that competition should be delayed until September in order to ensure that the computer systems have been properly tested.

Eastern and Seeboard, along with Yorkshire and Man-

large number of Recs to he weh, are the four areas of the than once. "We are all despercountry where competition is due to be introduced first. The cities selected are Hull, Chester.

Canterbury and Norwich. But both Manweh, which is owned by Scottish Power and serves Merseyside and North Wales, and Yorkshire, are thought now to have recom-

mended a delay of six months. One option for Mr Battle and Professor Littlechild is to announce a six-month delay but set a deadline of Christmas for the full phasing-in of competition, so ensuring that all households get a chance to shop

around this year. Those Recs arguing for a delay until September say that even then, it will only give the industry three to four months to test out a computer system that would normally need at least a year to bed down.

They also argue that Professor Littlechild and Mr Battle will be anxious not to have to delay the launch date more ate to see competition work but it is not in anybody's interests to go for an earlier date just to be macho," said one executive.

However, John Devaney, chief executive of Eastern, said: "Three months should be the maximum allowed. If you go for six months then you will get people re-inventing the wheel." A meeting of the Recs took

place last Monday to review the position hut at that point the final PA report had not been written. It is expected to be completed next Monday or Tuesday. A six-month delay would in-

arm of British Gas. It has seen its market share steadily eroded as electricity companies enter the liberalised gas market from pizza and eating in high and is eager to strike back by attacking their markets.

Centrica has called for electricity suppliers which are not ready for competition to be prevented from entering the gas

#### Deep Pan Pizza chain hit by upmarket dining trend

Pizza is proving a turn-off for some of the Deep Pan sites. restaurant goers who are choos- Eventually most of the high expensive and ever more exot-

The trend has forced City Centre Restaurants (CCR), owner of the Deep Pan Pizza chain, to warn that profits for the year to December will fall short of market expectations, causing the shares to fall 15.5p to 133p.

The poor trading performance has prompted the group to restructure the division. James Naylor, chief executive of CCR, plans to sell or rehrand many of the group's 55 high furiate Centrica, the trading street sites as part of a strategy to take the group up-market.

Mr Naylor said yesterday: "There has been a drift away street restaurants over the last few years. People have been spending more and trying dif-

ferent things." CCR confirmed that several potential buyers have already expressed an interest in

ing to splash out money on street stores could disappear. The rest are likely to be refurbished to give them a more modern feel and the chain's name could also be changed. "Deep Pan Pizza has become a bit dated," admitted Mr Naylor.

Despite CCR's disappointing trading figures, Scott Charlesworth, managing director of its Caffe Uno chain, is in line for a huge profit-related bonus. He will receive £800,000 this year on top of a £100,000 pay out last year. Mr Naylor confirmed he is on course to make another £800,000 this year.

Mg star

Garfunkels and Chiquitos, the Mexican eateries, also grew strongly in the year and, ignoring Deep Pan Pizza, like-for-like sales in December rose 5.8 per

CCR is planning to roll out Wok Wok, its new chain offering Asian delicacies, and is looking at least one new restaurant concept.

- Andrew Yates

#### WH Smith provides for directors' golden parachutes

WH Smith has changed the terms of its directors' service contracts to grant them golden parachutes if the company is takeo over.

The move, which may attract

the ire of its investors, mean that the most senior directors, such as new chief executive Richard Handover, could receive payments of up to £800,000. Mr Handover is on a two-year contract of around £400,000 a year. Other, more recently appointed, directors 2.6785 D-Mark 1.8317 +0.22pf 1.5948 such as WH Smith Retail man-129.15 -¥1.30 116.57 aging director Beverley Hodson, have contracts of just one year. John Hancock, the head of the US husiness, is also oo a two-year contact and would qualify for more than £300,000.

The company justified the payments saying it was "simply bringing Smith's into line with current practice." A spokesman

cited other companies such as Cadbury Schweppes, Kingfisher, Barclays Bank and Pearson. saying they all have similar arrangements.

The changes were made last year and reported in WH Smith's accounts published in July. This was just two months before Tim Waterstone made his audacious £1bo approach to the company which would have seen him installed as chairman. A WH Smith spokesman

said the payments for loss of office were an additional incentive for the directors to not to abandon the company during a takeover situation. The company declined to comment on whether large pay packages, bonus payments and share option schemes did not already provide sufficient incentive.

#### Allied Colloids, the speciality dence and that Hercules is preparing to make a knock-out hid for the group by upping its

chemicals group, yesterday predicted that profits for the year to March would rise by more that one-third to £74m and forecasted annual cost savings of £11.5m in its last final defence against a £1.1hn hostile hid from Hercules, its US rival.

However, analysts were predicting that the group was unlikely to retain its indepen-

155p a share offer to around

David Farrar, chief executive

of Allied Colloids, said: "We have a great growth record. The problem is that in the past we have focused on growth rather than profit. In the two and a half years I have been in charge there has been a huge change in culture."

Allied Colloids claims it should be valued by the market at 174p a share, despite the fact that its shares were languishing at around 115p before the hid. Hercules hranded the de-

fence "uninspiring" and claimed that profit forecasts were exactly in line with analysts' predictions. A spokesman

for the group said yesterday: They are not promising jam today. It is not even jam tomorrow. It is jam the day after that. Claims that they should be valued by the market at 174p are laughable."

Allied could look for a white knight or even consider a management buy-out if Hercules increases its hid.

- Andrew Yates

### Diageo set to reveal Far East turmoil has damaged profits

Allied braces for knock-out bid from US rival Hercules

Diageo, the new drinks giant formed by the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, is expected to announce on Monday that financial turmoil in the Far East will have a severe effect on profits. The warning

have a much higger impact on earnings than first thought as the crisis spreads throughout the continent and threatens to dampen economic growth.

The Far East contributes will come as the group unveils up to 10 per cent of Diageo's terms. The brokers Société its first ever trading statement. profits. However demand for Générale have knocked £35m off Analysts believe the prob- spirits such as whisky has fall- profit forecasts for the year to

ten and there is evidence of customers switching to cheaper. lower margin spirits hrands. The continued slump in the value of Far Eastern currencies will also reduce earnings in pound

lems in Asia will turn out to en as the financial crisis has bit- June. The cuts mirror moves by other analysts who have reduced carnings estimates by as much as £70m over the next few years.

One drinks analyst said: "Diageo is expected to confirm analysts' predictions that its problems in the Far East have



**JEREMY** WARNER ON WHY THE US HAS FAILED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF BILL GATES

## How the American dream has come unstuck

There was an excellent piece in the New Yorker magazine this week about the US Justice Department's battle with Microsoft. Timed to coincide with renewed court hearings over whether Microsoft is abusing its position in the Internet browser market, this was the definitive article on the monopoly Bill Gares has managed to establish in personal computer operating system technology, and the way in which he is using this to dominate other key areas of the PC software market

Up until very recently few have had anything but praise for Mr Gates. In the US he is an icon, the very personification of the American dream and the global triumph of American technology and its free market capitalist system.

Until recently that is. Now that image is beginning to sour, and in the process policy makers have begun to question why it is that both the self correcting mechanisms of the free market, and America's impressive battery of anti trust and competition laws, have been unequal to the task of checking the growing power of the Microsoft ma-

Worse, they wonder whether Mr Gates. for so long the man who seemed to epitomise the cutting edge of technology, is not now beginning to act as a break on technological development and change. And if that's the case, is there not a danger of the US eventually losing its present undisputed lead in computer technology and sales?

Before trying to answer these questions. it is worth making some general points about the nature of businessmen and monopolies. There is nothing particularly odd, new or surprising about the way Mr Gates operates or behaves. It would be wrong to view him. as some do, as an evil genius astride a war like empire set on world domination. That may once have been the model for the successful monopoly enterprise, but it isn't these days. In any case, Mr Gates isn't like that and nor is his company. On the other hand, nobody would quarrel with the contention that he has been particularly ruthless and single minded in the way be has developed. defended and exploited an original great new idea and market opportunity. This is what successful entrepreneurs do.

In a sense, it is the function of business to aspire to monopoly, for that is where the greatest likelihood of survival and spectacular profit lies. Businessmen who fail to keep uppermost in their minds that their whole endeavour should be bent on trouncing the competition, invariably end up getting trounced themselves.

Mr Gates, then, belongs to a glorious (or not so glorious depending on your point of view) tradition of inspired and highly successful husinessmen, stretching from John Rockefeller in the late 1800s through Cecil Rhodes in the early part of the century to Rupert Murdoch today. On present showing, Microsoft looks as if it will out monopolise all these role models.

Monopoly can be achieved in a number of ways. The simplest is to buy it, either by acquiring the competition or by driving it out of husiness through price cutting - a method known as predatory pricing. In the developed world at least, the first of these routes is now more or less outlawed, though some big companies do still seem to get their consolidating mergers through regulators. The competition authorities both in the US and Europe are also getting better at stamping out predatory pricing, though again there is perhaps a way to go, particularly in Britain.

New industries and technologies offer the opportunity of an entirely different approach to monopoly. Copyright is a tradi-tion as ancient as commerce itself. Hardly anyone would seriously dispute an inventor's right to profit from his own discovery, so international law has rightly been constructed to offer cast iron protection. What this does is to give the inventing individual or company an effective monopoly over the product, at least for a limited period of time. Generally, however, it's not long before the competition comes up with a new and hope-

fully better version of the same thing. The trick that Mr Gates managed to pull off was to make his MS-DOS operating system, originally designed for IBM's onslaught on the personal computer market, into what became the industry standard. After that came Windows 95, which has piggy backed off MS-DOS into the same position. Mr Gates has thus achieved the holy grail of all entrepreneurs, for once the industry standard, everyone has do buy your product even when there are better and cheaper versions in prospect. The market has in effect been locked up. Mr Gates has achieved this, moreover, in the world's fastest growing industry, personal computers.

Quite how he managed it has been the subject of more column inches than the Gulf War. In part, it was simply the snowball effect. Because high tech goods have to be compatible with each other, a product can sweep all before it once a certain critical mass has been achieved. More and more other software products become captive to that standard, making it more invaluable still. Anyone with children who has gone the Apple Mac route to the desk top computer must be only too aware, for instance, of the impossibility of getting the latest wizzo computer games in anything other than

Windows compatible form. There is nothing illegal in any of this, hut clearly it profoundly distorts the way in which free markets are meant to work. Arguably, there were better alternatives, both to MS-DOS and Windows, but none has come to occupy anything more than a small niche position. Obviously, there's something wrong here, but there's nothing either the market or regulators can do about it. Instead, the Justice Department has chosen to attack Microsoft on its attempt to lock up another area of the market, Internet browsers. Even before Microsoft launched Internet Explorer, there were growing signs of overtly anti competitive behaviour.

With Explorer, it became much more contentious. What Microsoft did, was directly to link its Explorer product with Windows, so that you could not have Windows without Explorer. Most browsers, which act as a gateway to the Web, are in effect given away, both by Microsoft and rivals. Even so, it is clear what Microsoft is up to here. The strategy is that of maintaining control over all aspects of the desktop, thereby preventing compenitors from getting a foot in the door.

In the end, it is for the US authorities

to deal with Mr Gates and the threat he poses to the free market system. We all have to use them, but these are almost exclusively US technologies, and it is primarily America's lookout if it fails urgently to address the problem. Obviously we are affected. however. And there is a parallel in Britain. if an inexact one. Rupert Murdoch's TV encryption technology occupies a similar position in subscription TV to that of Microsoft with the PC - you cannot offer pay TV without using his system. The consequent opportunity for abuse is obvious, though to be fair, there is as yet no evidence of him using it. As long as capitalism continues to flourish, there will always be those who aspire to monopoly. What governments and regulators have to be eternally vigilant in remembering is that monopoly is also capitalism's greatest enemy.

## Tokyo stock market rises 6 per cent in mini-recovery

The Japanese yen rose and the Tokyo stock market staged a mini-recovery yesterday, rising more than 6 per cent, on renewed hopes that the government would take measures to boost the economy. Stephen Vines reports. from Hong Kong.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) ended its annual convention yesterday with its leaders firmly focused on the need for measures to inject new life in the economy.

Newspaper reports suggested that this would be translated into a new package of stimulus measures to be enacted in a special March hudget. The measures are reported to include further income tax cuts and increased spending on public works. It appears that the government will focus more on reflation of the economy than on its previous concern with balancing the hudget.

The LDP issued a statement saying: "In line with the determination expressed by Prime Minister Rvutaro Hashimoto that Japan will never trigger a global economic recession, we will continue to promptly carry out all possible measures to stabilise the financial system and achieve economic recovery."

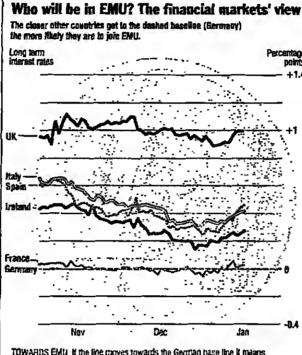
The convention also applauded a suggestion that Japanese corporations should be allowed to undertake a mass revaluation of their land holdings, something which has not been done for over two decades. The object would be to provide increased collateral against which banks could either lend more or adjust their existing loans without having to lower borrowing limits.

Although this proposal appears to be very much in the spirit of shuffling the deck chairs on the deck of the Titanic, its ingenuity caught the imagination of investors who are preoccupied by fears of massive corporate defaults on

Interestingly, there were signs that foreign huvers had reentered the Japanese market with enthusiasm yesterday after a period when they had been notable by their absence. News of foreign buying, enhanced by a steadily improvement in the value of the year, encouraged domestic investors to come in behind the overseas investors.

While bank shares rose strongly vesterday. Moody's, the US-based credit-rating agency. injected a mood of caution into the industrial sector by issuing a downgrade on the deht rating of the giant Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Meanwhile, four former ex-

ecutives of Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank pleaded guilty to illegally giving money to a corporate racketeer as they admitted they had paid him off to ensure that the hank's shareholder meetings proceeded smoothly. The executives are charged with funnelling 11.78hn yen (£55.6m) in 52 payments to Ryuichi Koike from July 1994. to September 1995, through a corporate affiliate.



trivestors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, it they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

#### When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

Mikim Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Doutsche Morgan Grentst Salomon Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time

Probability EMU starts on time-(86% last week) 110.5% last week) Probability EMU is delayed Probability EMU never happens: 13.5% last week)

#### **EMU** chances take on fresh impetus

The prospects for European Monetary Union emerged from the shadows this week as the Asian economies showed signs of recovery.

The spreads between German mark, securities and some of the smaller European currencies have widened slightly, reversing the long-term trend to convergence, but not enough to cause any real concern, and the view of the experts is increasingly that it is too late now to prevent the narrow EMU going ahead and political risky to stop the broad EMU, containing Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Bundesbank officials continue to warn everyone against complacency, but a legal move to have the German courts rule that replacing the mark is unconstitutional is unlikely to succeed and has not had much impact on the markets.

The simmering row hetween the Dutch and Italians is slightly more serious. But reports that for political reasons the Dutch Finance Minister would oppose Italian membership of the monetary union in the first wave have been played down in the past

- Clifford German

#### CSFB lays off 30 BZW staff following bank purchase

Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB), the Swiss-American bank. laid off 30 BZW staff in London yesterday. The employees were the first UK casualties of CSFB's purchase of parts of BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, last November. A further 150 BZW staff are understood to have been called in for "consultation interviews" to discuss their future, and more redundancies are expected. CSFB said yesterday redundancies would not automatically follow for those called to consultation interviews, but admitted only those staff not called to interview could regard their jobs as secure.

#### Efficiency cuts at Christie's

Christie's International, the auction house locked in takeover talks with a group of investors led by investment bank SBC Warburg, is laying off 57 staff in the UK and the US as part of its plans to "improve efficiency". The cuts are part of an ongoing review of Christie's operations, and City sources dismissed suggestions that the group was trying to squeeze a better price out of its suitors, who are understood to be carrying out due diligence on the company.

#### Snares soar in Lorien deal

Shares in Lorien jumped 26p to 559p after the consultancy group unveiled a partnership deal with Baan, the fast-growing Dutch software house. The agreement makes Lorien one of Baan's five UK partners, with exclusive rights to implement the company's Enterprise Resource Planning software in the process manufacturing industry.

#### Safeway raises bank stakes

Safeway has raised the stakes in the telephone banking war with a new account that will pay up to 7.4 per cent interest on halances over £2,500. The instant access account will be launched on Monday in conjunction with Abbey National. It will pay interest of 6.75 per cent on balances over £500 and 7.3 per cent on balances over £1,000.

#### **National Savings down**

Savers put £109m into National Savings in December, bringing the total for the first nine months of the financial year to £1.07bn, compared to £4.3bn at the same stage the previous year. Premium Bonds attracted a net £101m, indexlinked certificates £42m and Pensioners' Bonds £25m.

#### Marlborough takeover

Marlborough International, Ireland's largest recruitment company, has agreed to a reverse takeover of Walker Hamill of the UK for about £17.6m. Marlborough asked for its shares to be suspended pending shareholder approval of the acquisition. Walker Hamill, which is privately owned, specialises in placing accountants. MBAs and strategy consultants, and has offices in London, Reading and Australia.

#### COMPANY RESULTS Turnover £ Pre-tax £ EPS Dividend British Bleodstock (I) 2.50m (2.38m) 0.124m (0.123m) 3.7p (3.2p) 0 (-) Ospray Communication (F) 31.91m (32.64m)0.519m (0.712m) 1.98p (2.2p) 0 (-)

## Peking stands firm behind HK dollar peg GEC Yarrow safeguards jobs

\*China's central banker yesterday insisted Peking would not devalue the mainland's currency and was standing firm behind Hong Kong's defence of its dollar peg.

The blunt public pronouncements were aimed both at international financiers and opinion at home, where the Asian financial turmoil has caused a slide in the black market value of the renminhi. Dai Xianglong, governor of the People's Bank of China, made the most forthright pledge yet that the Chinese government would not devalue its currency in response to the Asian financial meltdown. A renminhi devaluation was "out of the question. "We don't have a reason to devalue, nor are we willing to devalue, he said.

The commitment comes

ahead of today's arrival in

Peking of Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, whose hail-out programmes for other Asian countries would be undermined by any Chinese Repeated depreciation. promises by Peking have failed to quell fears that China may decide to devalue its currency because of rising competition for its exports from south-east Asian countries. Mr Dai said that only 15 per cent of China's exports were vulnerable to competition from south-east Asian countries.

Rumours of a renminhi devaluation puts yet more pressure on the Hong Kong dollar peg to the US currency, which Peking is committed to maintaining, Mr Dai stressed that China's economy was robust. Economic growth will slow this year, he confirmed, but he was confident it would still reach 8 per cent, compared with 8.8 per cent in 1997. And the cause of the cooling was a slowdown in township and village enterprises, previously one of the engines of China's economic growth. The central banker promised "very drastic measures" to restructure China's state banks, confirming that up to 25 per cent of domestic loanswere non-performing, of which more than 5 per cent

were non-recoverable. Meanwhile in Hong Kong the Hang Seng Index rose above 4 per cent as fears of a default at Sino Group, the property developer, receded. Concern over the property giants was exacerbated by a decision by Mondo's the credit ratingsagency, to downgrade Britishcontrolled Swire Group, and Wharf. The pair saw their share price rise, probably reflecting the recent criticism of credit agencies for failing to predict the crisis.

More than 2.000 jobs were contracts to build three Type 23 sateguarded at the Clydeside frigates for the Royal Navy and is expected to keep Yarrow

with £500m Brunei order

warship builder GEC Yarrow yesterday after the yard secured a £500m order for three offshore patrol vessels from the Sulian of Brunei, the world's richesi man. The contract will also pro-

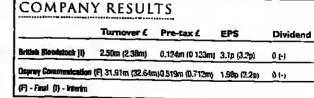
vide work for scores of British sub-contractors including British Aerospace, which is expected to supply its Scawolf ship-to-air missile system as part of the package.

Work on the contract will begin next year when the Yarrow yard completes existing

busy for four years. The yard is also hopeful of winning further export orders following its success in Brunei.

South Africa has a similar requirement for offshore patrol vessels and other potential markets include the Gulf States and the Far East. The vessels are virtually the

size of frigates and can be used in a variety of roles ranging from fishery protection to disaster relief and offshore rescue. - Michael Harrison



#### **BUSINESS AND** THE COURTS

IOHN: WILLCOCK



Bill Gates's giant Microsoft Corporation is seeing legal action on a whole number of froms the moment in the US. his week its took action of its won when it launched a writ against Taskmaster Computing Ltd and an individual, Roy Pique, of White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield in Dover.

alleging copyright infringement. Microsoft's writ says that on 27 Octoher last year Taskmaster sold five products to a company called Lead Glass (Keni) which bore trademarks including Microsoft, Windows and Powerpoint, but which were not manufactured by Mi-

crosoft. The giant software company has retained London-based law firm Linklaters to represent it and lodged a writ on Tuesday in the High Courts demanding an injunction against Taskmaster and damages. amongsi other things.

Across the pond, Microsoft is itself facing an anti-trust case brought by the US Justice Department, which claims it is violating a 1995 consent decree by making personal computer manufacturers "Bundle" its Internet browser with its Windows 95 product. Nine US Sates have launched their own

probes into whether the company is using anti-competitive practices. All of which is being contested by Microsoft. I've been waiting to write a story headlined

\*Battle of the Urinals" for a long time. Some pungent litigation is due to reach coun this spring between Greenhitt Services, of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire. and Washroom International, of Cliftorville, Kent.

Greenhill has an exclusive licence to all rights in a waterless urinal system called "WhiffAway", which industry analysts have tipped as a big future seller.

Last year Greenhill made an agreement with Washmorn making the latter the exclusive distributor of the system in the UK and Europe for lityears. Under the deal Washroom undertook not to sell rival sistems. Now Greenhill is claiming that Washroom is mar-

keting a rival system, IQ Waterfree Urinal System. Greenhill wants damages and an ininnetion against Washroom.

John Rhodes of Campbell Hooper is representing Greenhill and won an interlocutory order from Mr Justice Popplewell stopping Washroom from breaching the conditions of the contract. This decision went to the Court of Ap-

peal, where Sir John Balcombe let the earlier injunction stand, saying that certain claims by Washroom had already been "pooh poohed" by a High Court judge. How refreshing to see a senior memher of the Judiciary expressing himself in

such earthy terms. Ensur Byfield, a Southampion firm, are representing Washroom. Oh, and if you want to see either of the rival urinals in action. I'm advised, go to any Granada motorway service station.

Richard Branson was being cross-examined yesterday in the libel case between the Virgin boss and Guy Snowden, founder and

head of GTech, the American lottery contractor. Throughout the case, which kicked off

at the High Court this week, Mr Branson has been accompanied by his father. Ted

Mr Branson senior, 79, is a distinguished former barrister himself, and ended his career as a Stipendiary Magistrate. His success at the Bar enabled him to send young Richard to Stowe, the public school, Tec lives with his wife Eve Branson on the south coast, near Chichester. Ted's other claim to fame is that he is a former "desert rat": He fought with the British Army in North Africa during the second world war, and was decorated. Richard Branson is being represented by George Carman QC, while Mr Snowden has Richard Ferguson QC. The case, which is expected to last four weeks, is being heard by Mr Justice Moreland, who heard the Jamie Bulger case.

A judgement is expected to be delivered next Wednesday over the Alan Clark case, in which the former Government minister is seeking an injunction and damages against the London Evening Standard over the newspaper's spoof "Alan Clark Diary".

Geoffrey Hobbs QC. on Mr Clark's hehalf, accused the paper of "false attribution of authorship". Meanwhile, this week the Evening Standard continued to publish the spoof diary pending the judgment.

Word reaches me of an intruiging writ lodged recently by the Ministry of Sound. the south-east London nightclub headed by Jamie Palumbo, against a Ms Cosgrave. Solicitors acting on behalf of the Elephant & Castle rave venue were retuciani io discuss the case, except to say that "Ms Cosgrave was offered the opportunity to answer the allegations through her solicitors prior to the commencement of proceedings, but [the Ministry] regarded the responses she provided as unsatisfactory." What allegations? I'll bring you the writ in full next week.

ii Hercules

# 24/THE BACK PAGE



around the town by folk dancers from all over the world. This photograph, by Jason Orton, was taken with a Nikon F90, using a 50mm lens on 800 Asa film, 1/250th of a second at f8. To order a print, price £15, telephone 0171-293 2534



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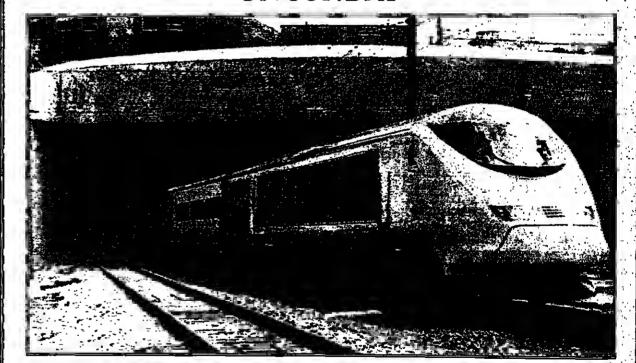
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TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION



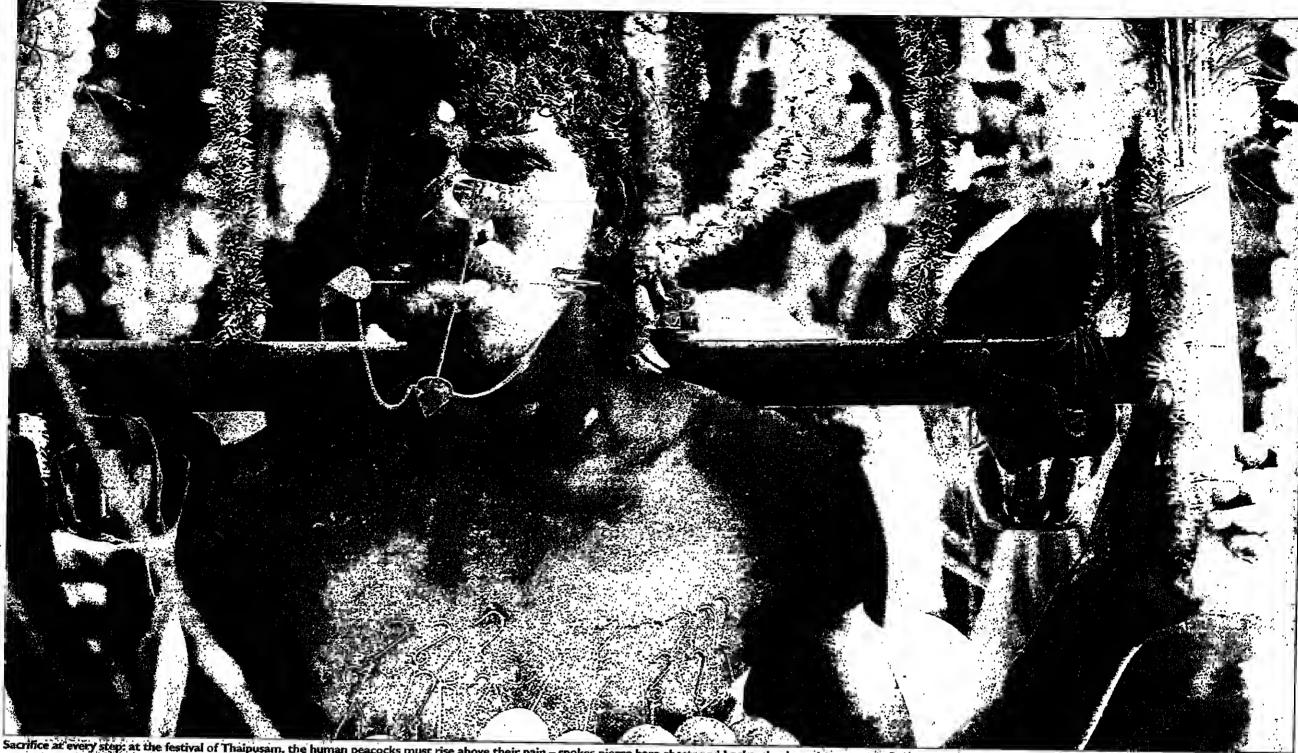
# **BLACK HOLE**

Revealed: the full story of the £ i 2bn Channel Tunnel **PLUS:** 

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# TIME OFF

TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



# Dirty dancing in Orchard Road

As human peacocks paraded through the streets and a carnival atmosphere came into full swing, Amar Grover discovered a very different face of Singapore.

This was not quite the Singapore one expected and, frankly, what a relief. I'd been hovering in a temple compound since the crack of dawn. Families clustered tightly as drastic things were done to brothers, sisters and friends. I made way for an unsteady young man in bright yellow swimming-trunks. A arge, spoked frame was pinned to his torso. There were cheers and chanting. The human peacock stepped forward and emharked gingerly upon the strange road of Thaipusam.

This is the most flamboyant festival of Singapore's Hindu community. Each year on the day of the full moon in the month of Thai (late January or early February), thousands of devotees wind through four kilometres of the city's streets.

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verted and even dirt makes a stately appearance. There are mounds of orchids and marigolds, sticky smashed coconuts and feverish incantations. But what really sets this spectacle apart are the kavadis.

Kavadi means, literally, "sacrifice at every step" and it surely feels just like that. Each human peacock sports a steel and aluminium cage-like frame weighing up to 20kg. Their elaborate plumage - feathers. tassels, flowers, inset pictures of idols - rests on shoulder pads yet is balanced by spokes that pierce hare chests and hacks. Hooks and barbs tug none too gently; cheeks and tongues are lanced with skewers. This is faith, not mind, over matter.

Thaipusam has its roots in Tamil India. Legend relates how a simple villager embarked on a journey to pay homage to Lord Subramaniam, son of the mighty god Shiva. Milk, pots of which weighed down his shoulders, was the only modest offering, song the only effective relief. It was an arduous trek and for this penance be was handsomely blessed.

Yet there is nothing remotely pastoral about today's kavadi hearers, who are mostly urbane and unfreakish. The newspapers had sampled participants; a civil servant aged 61 (enduring this for the 30th year since being cured of cirrhosis of the liver); an insurance agent who bad lost his

cancerous leg, and was quoted as saying: "I keep thinking what God has done for me." The thrust of all this display is atonement, to give thanks or

fulfil vows made to Lord Sub-

Getting there: Quest Worldwide

£402 return on Singapore Airlines

which flies direct from Heathrow or

Manchester to Singapore. The same

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Where to stay: the Singapore

city tour, until 30 April.

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basis, breakfast, airport transfer and

(0181-547 3322) is offering a fare of

ramaniam. Their everyday concerns - husiness prosperity. exam success, continued health or survival - are wrought larger than life. And just as reason appears suspended, pain is inhibited. I asked about pain, but few

clear answers were forthcoming. "Correct spiritual preparation is vital," lectured one young man. The peacocks fast and lead an abstinent life for at least three days, possibly a

SWINGING INTO SINGAPORE

month, before the great day. Pain may indicate that preparations were not up to par, and should it he unbearable ... well, the peacock is in serious trouble.

Devotees plus entourage had gathered overnight at the Perumal Temple. There were prayers and offerings before makeshift altars. With garlanded vases balanced on their heads, women initiated the day's procession to Chettiar

Temple. It is not a shy route: participants take in downtown Singapore, even skirting Orchard Road, a major shopping thoroughfare.

As drums throbbed erratically. I watched kavadis being adjusted. An ungainly fan of prongs must fit matching sockets. One lot struggled for what must have seemed an eternity to its bearer. The relief when it finally docked was unmistakable; to fail before baving

properly begun would be disastrous. Few can face what would amount to Lord Subramaniam's almost unheard-of reiection. Then came oranges. Not

the freshly squeezed version, but a precious casting-away-ofevil-spirits variety. Ten. 20 at a time were hung from backs, cbest and thighs hy harbs and books, as were small hrass pots dribbling rivulets of milk. And finally, those long, threepronged skewers pushed through tongues and cheeks.

Against this stoical drama, perhaps the oddest reactions were from those making most noise. A few individuals uncontrollably, shrieked twitched like rag dolls or writhed on the ground amid the mess - and they hadn't even been pricked. "It is Lord Subramaniam," observed an elderly man. "He enters the people. They have a trance." He seemed a little doubtful.

All this holiness and bysteria is, thankfully, tempered by a carnival atmosphere. Family and friends come to send off every bird of prayer and they need some light relief. Food stalls are crammed into the tem-

ple compound, and there are impromptu parties and picnics. Cafes and restaurants line the first third of the route. With all those spokes and spikes, policemen direct the flow to avoid spidery gridlocks, and ambulances hover discreetly.

I followed the procession through Little India, down Serangoon Road and on to Tank Road. Devotees strained and often nearly buckled under their loads; some leaned on walking sticks, panting. Egged on by shouts or triumphant resolve, others danced and twirled to music and song.

Hours later, at the end of it all, there is a long queue to enter Chettiar Temple. Standing in the damp heat seemed the cruellest of tests. Whatever milk remains is poured on the deity's feet, and only then will those kavadis be dismantled, barbs unhooked and skewers withdrawn. Three days later, the villager wbo unwittingly began it all is honoured with special prayers. And the birds anticipatc a year - perhaps even a life of happiness and prosperity.

This year the festival of Thaipusum takes place on 10 February.

#### Roads are blocked, traffic is di-

**CITY BREAKS** INSIDE Madrid/6

OUTDOONS Off-roading/12 SPORT

HED DOWN UNDER Patrick Rafter interview/16

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1886) is a must if cost is not a

rates charged by hotels.

is the Imperial Singapore

Chetriar Temple.

The black market/20

WORLD CUPTICKETS

BARNSLEY 3 BATTLES. Ashley Ward/22

Timetables & Fares

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Ruined refuge of the Cathars: Château d'Aguilar, near Tuchan

Set mainly in the Corbières region of France are 20 or so ruined castles, former bastions of the Cathars, perched high on craggy rocks. Here your breath will be taken away by the views, the settings - and the history, writes Emily Passmore.

The Corbières region is one of the poorwith tourist shops and restaurants. But a of settings.

The Cathars, or Albigensians, were regarded in the 12th and 13th centuries as heretics - and they had the oddest of religions, derived from Zoroastrianism. They believed that the Devil had created earth which was a kind of tiving hell for wrongdoers. They disregarded the Old Testament, and they refused to bow down before Christ (since, if he were on earth, he could hardly be the son of God). Their priests, known as Prefects, were completely free of sin (rather as the Clears are meant to be in Scientology); they weren't allowed to eat meat or have sex. Sexuality was considered a sin, since all it did was perpetuate the ghastly human race. Indeed, according to one historian, sexuality was seen as a "diabolical trap, a horrible, repugnant snare that closes in

all living reality". (The word "hugger" is of metres up, it is easy to imagine how isoderived from the word for Bulgarian, many of whom became Cathars in the Middle Ages.) And there are connections between some of the esoteric symbols of the Cathars, and Nazism.

During the Albigensian Crusade in the 13th century, when the Roman Catholic, Church waged war on the heretics in southern France, the Cathars were forced to retreat to these romantic castles; in the end. though, they were completely erased.

From the crumbling walls of Château d'Aguilar to the four châteaux at Latour. the castles remain in various states of ruin.

lated, bungry and desperate the Cathars must have felt when pursued by their enemies. There remains a curious lavatory sticking out of one end of the castle; anyone scared of beights who looked down the bole would think twice about reliev-

tles and most taxing of climbs: we saw it surrounded in mist like a London pea-I remained rooted to the spot until my com- on Inquisition records of around 1300, you panion appeared out of the clouds and restrip is well worth while if what you want Up in the clouds at the Château Peyreper- cued me. The only trip to beat is sectusion, history, and the most romantic tuse, a castle huilt on the very tip of a crag. Peyrepertuse is Latours. Although some

Chateau

20 miles

Atlantic chart, noon today

unguarded strips where you feel it would be all too easy to fall down into the hands of the waiting Crusaders below. Montségur is demanding, but well worth it, if you're not put off by passing the field where 450 Cathars were put to death at the stake. Four Cathars escaped from Montsegur with, it's said a mass of Christian treasure. Peyrepertuse is just one of the best cas- and rumours have since abounded that identify this treasure with the Holy Grail.

If, hefore you go, you can read Montsouper, and I was so frightened of aillou, written by the French historian wandering to the edge and falling off that Emile Le Roy Ladurie, which was based will get a much hetter idea of what life was like during the period. It's a bit like a medieval soap opera, and tells you who surrounded by sheer rock face bundreds areas here are toped off, there are many was sleeping with whom, who was guarding whose sheep, what the corrupt parish priest has to say about the yellow crosses the Cathars were forced to wear, and

> Montaillou itself is one of the prettiest of the castles, the most easily accessible and, surprisingly, the least tourist-ridden. Standing inside its ivy-covered walls, listening to the bells of the cows helow mingling with the church hells, and overlooking miles of undulating hills, you feel as though you are right back in the 13th century.
>
> The area attracts its fair share of New

Agers, since the castles are all situated around the mysterious Rennes le Château, where in the 19th century, a Father Saunière uncovered a mass of mysterious manuscripts and esoteric material, left, it's said, hy the Knights of the Round Table.

He became suddenly so incredibly rich that be was able to refurbish the church completely (unfortunately he bad no taste; it's a terrible painted interior full of naff statues), build himself a mysterious tower and formal garden, and rebuild the walls around the town. His great wealth was so inexplicable that be was excommunicated for his luxurious lifestyle. Perhaps it was he who discovered the Grail itself ...

Carcassonne is a good place from which to start off, a medieval town completely restored by Viollet le Duc in the 19th century; but it's too perfect, and tourists jostle cheek by jowl as they visit shops selling scented candles, Provençal duvet-covers and overpriced pottery.

Instead. I'd advise booking at the Hotel Costes in Montségur - simple and basic, hut very clean. It's one of those typical, family-run hotel-restaurants found all over France, with delicious plats du jour, roaring fires, two dogs, and local wine. Ideal after a long slog up to a château and

Getting there: Rail Europe (0990 300003) has a service from London Waterloo to Carcassonne via Paris and Bordeaux for £142, taking 11 hours.

Staying there: the Hotel Costes in Montségur is on 00 33 561 01 10 24. A double room costs 220F (about £24) per night. Further information: French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London WIV OAL (0891 244123, premium rate); fax 0171-

### GREEN CHANNEL

About 66,000 overseas visitors travelled to South Africa in the first eight months of 1997 - up 22 per cent on the same period the previous year. But as last week's Green Channel explained, only around a quarter of the amount of money from tourism actually stays in developing countries, because of foreign ownership of travel agents, tour operators and hotels - and South Africa is no exception.

When a survey by Capibus for Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) revealed this fact to British interviewees, more than 60 per cent of those interviewed thought the figure was too little. Many were prepared to pay more for their holiday if they could be guaranteed that a greater amount of the money would ben-

efit the country. Nearly a quarter of respondents said they would be willing to pay an extra 10 per cent, and about three-quarters also felt they would like holiday companies to provide more information on how their trips affect local people.

Sue Wheat

#### RED CHANNEL

Hazardous marine life in Thailand - warnings from "Lonely Planet".

"Sea urchins are found in sandy spots near rocks and coral, often in popular snorkelling areas. They are generally spotted easily - look for dark spheres radiating thin spines. In such environments, take care, when wading or snorkelling, not to be knocked over by waves and tidal surges. Contact with sea urchins may leave their spines embedded in your skin. The larger ones can sometimes be removed with tweezers. Where spines are too fine to be plucked out, the preferred local method is to break them up using a blunt instrument such as a smooth stone or knife handle. Once the spines have been dealt with, the painful venom can be neutralised by immersing the affected area in very hot water for 30-90 minutes.

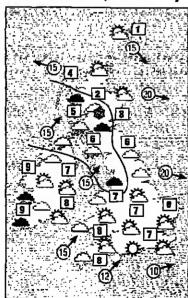
"Scorpionfish, lionfish and zehrafish all look very colourful and interesting, but their dorsal spines can pack a painful wallop - don't touch! It's very unlikely that you will be stung by one of tbese bizarre beauties, but if so, use the hot-water treatment described for sea urchins.

"Cone shells are cone-shaped" sea-snails with a venomous proboscis that darts from the narrow end of the shell to ward off aggressors. The pain of their sting can be intense, and venom doses are sometimes fatal. Never touch or even get close to a coneshaped shell in the sea."

'Thailand's Islands and Beaches' is published this month by Lonely Planet, price £9.99.

#### WEATHER

The British Isles, noon today



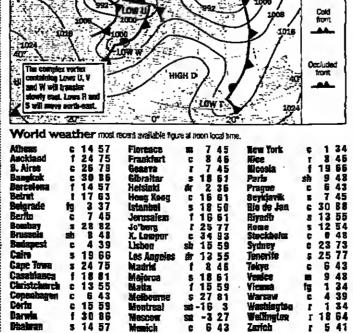
General summary and outlook Most of England and Wales will have a dry day with some sunny spells after early frost. However, the extreme west will be cloudier and some drizzly rain is likely to affect the north-west for a time. Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy with a little light rain and drizzle. Meanwhile, Scotland will have a cold day with the best of any sunny spells in the north and east. The south and west of the country will have duller spells and some patchy rain, sleet and hill-snow.

Tomorrow will be very unsettled across the whole of the British Isles. In Scotland outbreaks of rain, sleet and snow are likely. Initially the snow will be confined to the hills and the lar north, but the rain may turn to snow in southern Scotland later. The rest of the UK will have showers and longer spells of rain. Early next week a northerly airflow will bring cold weather to the whole country with widespread night frost and some snow showers along

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#### AA Roadwatch London, A1 between Mill Hill Circus and

Fiveways Corner, Roadworks and restric-tions. Until May 31. London A3211 Blackfriars Underpass Contraflow, Until April 15 Buckinghamshire, M40 J1a-J3. Road-works and contrallow. Until 1999. Kent M2 35-7. Bridge maintenance & restrictions Until March 9. Bristol M5 J18j-19, Major roadworks on Avenmouth Bridge Until Jan 99. Comwall, A38 Bodmin Parkway Station Gloucesterstrile. M5 J9 Tewksbury. Con-Somerset, M5 J22-J23. Major road-works & contraflow. Until March 31. Cambs, A1 Alconbury to Haddon, Con-struction work, Until December 31 1998.

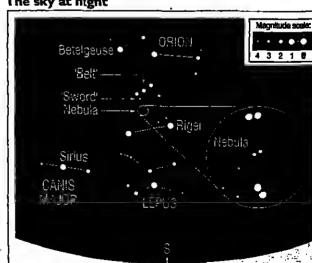
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Got and about with AA Readwratch car 0338 401 for the latest local and reported traffic news. Source The Adomo-bile Association. Calls charged at 39p per min (chap rate) 43p per min (all other times) inc

Roadworks until August 1.

Sun and moon

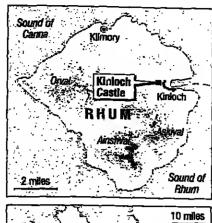
The sky at night

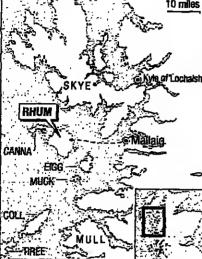


Orion can be seen due south between 9 and 10 pm this week. The. Orion Nebula, located in the 'sword', is just visible to the naked eye and a good target for small telescopes or binoculars

What better constellation than the magnificent Orion to house one of the most wondrous sights of deep space - the immense Orion Nebula. Select a reasonably dark evening and focus your attention below his belt and slightly to the left of ceotre, where with a little imagination you can see his sword dangling. Even with the naked eye you should be able to discern a ghostly greenish haze where a huge glowing gas cloud 1,500 light years away illuminates space like a fluorescent light some 15 light years across. Binoculars will help reveal its fan-like shape. The Orion Nehula is actually a luminous hister on the front of an even greater dark cloud of dust and gas lying behind it, which is a veritable stellar breeding ground. The brilliant hot stars that formed within the Orion Nebula about 1 million years ago are responsible for inflaming this cosmic carbuncle.

Good Good Good Good Good Good Good





Kinloch Castle, on the island of Rhum, may well be Britain's greatest monument to self-indulgence, writes Paul Buttle. And it makes the focus of a spectacular trip.

The extravagance of Kinloch Castle still shocks, 100 years after it was built. Were it on the mainland it would be far better known. But then, the remoteness of its location off the west coast of Scotland makes the place doubly strange.

Seen from the mainland, 15 miles away, Rhum looks a striking island: a cluster of dome-like peaks seemingly afloat in the midst of the sea (an image often seen in the film Local Hero). Two hundred years ago the island had a population of around 400. But in the 1820s it was simply "cleared" when the residents were put aboard two ships that took them to Canada.

The island was made into a huge sheep farm, but the venture failed. Thereafter it hecame merely a playground for the absurdly rich, where they could spend time hunting and fishing.

turn of the century were more absurdly rich than George Bullough, who inherited the island from his father in 1891, and a huge fortune to go with it.

George's wealth had been amassed in the Lancashire cotton industry by his father and grandfather. His grandfather, something of an inventor, had founded a husiness manufacturing machines to serve the cotton mills; the business later expanded to America. George was one of the wealthiest men in Britain when he came into his inheritance. And whilst his father and grandfather had



Monumental extravagance: the stone for Kinloch Castle was cut and shipped in from the Isle of Arran, the soil for the grounds was transported from Ayrshire

Photograph: Sue Anderson

## Rhum legacy of a wealthy egoist

devoted their lives to amassing that wealth. George devoted his life to spending it.

Part of that spending involved huilding Kinloch Castle. Because George wanted a red castle, the stone for it had to be cut and shipped in from the Isle of Arran.

Similarly, because the soil on the island castle, that, too, was shipped in; half a mil-Few landowners in Scotland at the lion tons of it, from Ayrshire. The castle was completed by 1901 and equipped with all the latest refinements then available, including central heating and electricity - a small hydroelectric plant having been huilt behind the castle to provide the supply. In the grounds were large greenhouses in which turtles and alligators were kept; humming hirds flew in the conservatory.

In today's money it cost George all of £70m to build what was essentially a holiday home, used for just four weeks a year - he had other mansions elsewhere, as well as an ocean-going "yacht" the size of Britannia.

The main hall of the castle is a haronial extravaganza: a herd of stags' heads line the walls, the skin of a polar bear covers the floor a few yards from a Steinway grand piano. In the rest of the castle is a ballroom with a musicians' gallery, a dining-room with mahogany panelling, a sumptuous games was too poor to produce the type of luxu- room with a full-length snooker table, and nant grounds he wanted to have around the a small library stocked floor to ceiling with leather-bound hooks.

All this, to provide a little rest and and comfort after a hard day spent on the island's heather-clad hills, blasting away at the red deer. Clearly, tramping those hills did not instill in George any regard or desire for simple living.

The visits went on for 20-odd years after the eastle was built, and then they stopped. George and his wife packed up their bags one summer and never returned to the eastle. They left everything: the paintings, the furniture, the porcelain, the statues, the books, the cellars stocked with wine. Millions of pounds' worth of valuables they

simply abandoned to gather dust, never sending for any of it. George died in 1939 playing golf in France; his widow, Monica Lilly, died nearly 30 years later, in 1967.

Eleven years before Monica Lilly died, she offered the castle and the island to the Queen, who politely refused it. A year later she sold the island and everything on it, including the castle and all its contents, to Scottish Natural Heritage, for the knock-

Although George and Monica Lilly never stayed in the castle again, they made one final visit to Rhum; and they are still there. On the far south side of the island from the castle is one of the strangest burial sites in Britain: a mausoleum in the shape of a Greek temple, standing in gaunt isolation, looking out over the Atlantic, it was built for George's father, and now George rests on one side of him and his wife on the other.

Close by the mausoleum are the ruined remains of several former island homes last occupied more than 170 years ago. from April to October, though tours outside

Similar ruins can be seen in the north of the island, at Kilmory. I found Kilmory an entrancing place.

Looking north across a sweeping sandy beach, you can see the Cuillin mountains of Skye, and to the south are the majestic peaks of Rhum itself. A herd of stags grazing on the short sward added an almost surreal atmosphere on the day I was there. Normally these animals take flight as soon down price of £1 an acre - a total of £27,000. as they see a human being, but here they have become almost domesticated.

In the midst of the herd was a small cottage. It had a affecting simplicity, especially surrounded by all that natural heauty, and looked a near ideal place to live. I wondered why it was that George Bullough never thought the same, but instead spent all those millions, building what in essence is and always has been, despite all that expenditure, a ludicrously ugly edifice.

The museum section of Kinloch Castle is open

these dates are sometimes possible. For information on the castle and the rest of the island, contact Rhum National Nature Reserve, the Reserve Office, The White House, Isle of Rhum, Inverness-shire PH43 4RR (01687 462026).

Getting there: short of hiring a helicopter, the only transport to Rhum for most of the year is on a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from Mallaig (01475 650100). The MV 'Lochmor' takes between 90 minutes and four hours, depending on the routing. She operates three or four days a week throughout the year. The fare for a five-day return is £9.35 for foot passengers. In summer, the timetable on Wednesdays and Saturdays allows for day visits to be made; at other times, you have to stay overnight.

Accommodation: the Reserve Office (01687 462026) can arrange places to stay around the island. You can also stay in a selfcatering hostel at Kinloch Castle (call the manager on 01687 462037). The attached restaurant is open during the summer.



SIMON CALDER The best argument yet for a single European currency has just dropped through my letterbox. You expect your first credit card statement after Christmas to contain a shock or two, but you don't usually expect the culprit to be the credit card company itself.

The usual check-out scrum surrounded the cashier's desk at the Hotel Alcora in Seville. I said the bill had already been paid; they said it hadn't, and with the disadvantage conferred upon anyone with a plane to catch I handed over my credit card to settle the 25,000-peseta

Seconds later the mistake was spotted. My card was put through the machine again, a refund slip was issued for the same amount - in pesetas - and I thought no more about it. Until the hill arrived this week. The amount charged was £106. but the refund was only Here's how it happened.

Losing £6 in as many seconds is worrying: more alarming is what it suggests about the margins the bank appropriates for foreign transactions.

In the seven years since the collapse of Communism, the countries of the former Soviet Union have adopted all

manner of Western habits, including airlines which focus on the interest of the passengers, not the staff. But they haven't quite grasped the concept that in-flight magazines should be bland and unadventurous.

Uzbekisian Airways' cahin reading, imaginatively entitled Inflight Magazine. takes its chances with a feature on Britain's capital.

It commends the "Free topical walking excursions through London", a surprise to the London Walks organisation, which charges £4.50 a stroll.

"An excursion of London will include Big Ben, the clock tower that collates the

exact time throughout Great Britain."

organ of Ukraine International Airways, focuses on home territory. The first time that British travellers are likely to see this is when heading to the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, probably for work. So any anxiety they may feel will be amplified by the full-page advertisement that begins: "I was getting really nervous. I couldn't believe it when my company transferred me to Ukraine.

The ad, for an Americanrun clinic in the capital. continues the worrying theme: "As the day

approached, I was starting to panic ... Oh my gosh! What if I get sick over there or Panorama, the in-flight worse ... in some kind of

> stories about Ükrainian health care." I think I preferred the blunt technical data that passed as in-flight reading on a flight from Irkutsk to Moscow, Just after the Tupolev took off for its nonstop flight, I read that the aircraft's maximum range was

horrible accident ... I had

heard some nightmare

5,000km. The distance between the two cities is 5,200km.

What airline is this, anyway? That's the question posed by Peter Copping of Manchester, who bought a package holiday from a small tour operator. "I travelled out on the ticket of one 'airline', on a plane operated by another carrier. The

journey back was on a

different, non-UK airline.

None of these was the airline whose name appeared on my ticket. Had an accident occurred - 1 don't mean a crash, just, say, boiling coffee being spilled on me - I would not have known who was responsible."

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## Le weekend break: the chain reactions

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your hips and in front of

your thighs. This will allow

absorb bumps and difficult

Chris Exall

you to turn your legs

more powerfully and to

It seemed a good idea to whiz across to the Alps for a three-day ski break. But have you ever tried to drive up a mountainside in the snow? Without snow chains? Not a wise move, as Richard Holledge discovered.

There is one, foolproof way to find out whether it is going to snow in the Alps. Not the cloud lowering over Mont Blanc, not

not even the advice of some gnarled, alpine Ian MacCaskill. You wait until you hear I am hiring a car for the short huh - haul from Geneva to a nearby resort.

Snowstorms are guaranteed. One trip saw me and Ford Orion stide off the mountain in gentle spring snowfall below Val Thorens. There was the slow-motion skid into the crash barrier on the way up to Alpe d'Huez; the traumatic battle against blizzards on the way to

was that at midnight a week or so ago, as I would never manage to put them on. So late-night revellers sat cosily in bars toast- it was that I was parked in 6in of snow in ing a mighty snowfall, I was fighting a los- a gale on a busy main road with cars ei- an act, of course, ing battle with snow chains just outside ther contemptuously rushing past spray-Chamonix.

The idea had been to prove to myself how easy it is to flit across to the slopes for chains, stupid bastards). three days without the help of travel agent or specialist organiser.

It started well. However, it is an ineluctable fact of travel life that the bits of the trip that work are equalled by those that don't. The journey from Luton to Geneva with easyJet took off on time and arrived early. The £12S fare compared the Cirque du Soleil.

more than favourably with the £408 quoted by British Airways, even if you did have to buy your own can of Stella and packet of Twiglets.

The flight took one hour 20 minutes, the baggage took 50 minutes to clear, the business of hiring the car took an hour and 10 minutes, the getting out of Geneva another hour. Nice place, Geneva, but not late at night in the rain, when all roads lead to centre ville and not autres directions. (Next time I'll cough up the £16 necessary to travel on the two miles of Swiss motorway link from the airport to France's Authe pine cones opening (or is it closing?), toroute Blanche, and bypass the place altogether.)

If it's raining in Geneva it's snowing in the mountains. And foggy. So by the time I reached Chamonix, at around midnight, the snow was piling down so fast that it was obvious I would not make the last few miles to my destination, Argentière. that night.

Of course, being an experienced driver-off of mountains I had been remarkably percipient, and had persuaded the harassed girl on the Avis desk to sell me snow

ing me with snow (chains on, smug bastards), or wobbling dangerously (no

The idea is that you slip the chains over hooks inside the tyre into place, and join through the town sidestepped a coachload inviting. up the outside links - all with a minimum of effort. However, it doesn't work like that. You need the muscles of a weightlifter and the agility of a contortionist in

Snowchains ...













and looked tragic - maybe even dead - per-Tignes; and as for "road desk to sell me snow haps somebody would realise that this was holocked with snow" above Selva ... So it chains. Frankly, even as I did so I knew that a pathetic Englishman and would come to utes of grunting, straining and cursing, and haps somebody would realise that this was my rescue.

I tried losing my temper a few times. Just

Back to Chamonix, where the concierge at one hotel smiled sympathetically, if rather sardonically, and told me there was only one bed left in the whole town. Spurred by my reluctance to spend a night in my otherof bewildered Asians and found myself in that very haven.

No food of course, just the left-over for my would-be companions of the piste. was taken outside. Sunbathing in Decem-

daylight and under cover of the garage, I easily put on my chains - a mere 45 minl was off.

How fabulous to have a car. Go where you like, move effortlessly from one resort to another, ignore other English cars struggling to put on their chains by the roadside. Freedom.

The sun came out, shining through snow-laden trees, the Chamonix valley and round the car tyres, simply click the wise very cosy Renault Twingo, I tore looked lovely, the mountains looked

And so they were: the big, unpisted runs above Argentiere rimmed by mighty peaks. the easier, prettier runs of Les Houches Christmas cake I had thoughtfully bought packed with happy skiers. Lunch, lots of it.

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ing, a meal to restore your faith in French cooking at the Chamonix's Auberge du Bois Prin - all foie gras, fish and lamb in glorious harmony - and it was hack to

A weekend away. Perfect. Except that I haven't forgotten that first

Next time I'll think about going by train. For example, you can get to the resorts of the Trois Vallees - Courchevel, Méribel, Les Menuires - on one of three or four trains a day from Geneva via Chambéry and Moutiers, and catch a bus or taxi to the resort. La Plagne, Les Arcs and Val d'Isère are reachable from stations further on down

Better still, take the train direct from Swiss Railways (0171 734 1921).

- WESTERN

HIMALAYAN

EXPERIENCE

21/29TH AUGUST

I thought that if I lay down in the road Next day, more snow, but this time, with ber? Of course. Three days of perfect ski- Geneva airport to the Swiss resorts of the Portes du Soleil. Take the train to Aigle. walk across the platform, take the véléphérique, not just to the charming village of Champery, but to the cable car which connects to the dozen resorts and 200 kilometres of skiing that make up the Portes du SoleiL

Quite a handy place to have a car, as it happens. Maybe I'll go to evening classes. in snow-chain assembly.

Le weckend: easyJet fare: £128 (£79 out, £49

The car hire: £124 for three days. Snow chains, £20. Unscheduled stay in Park Hotel, Chamonix, £40. Contacts: French Railways (0990 300003),

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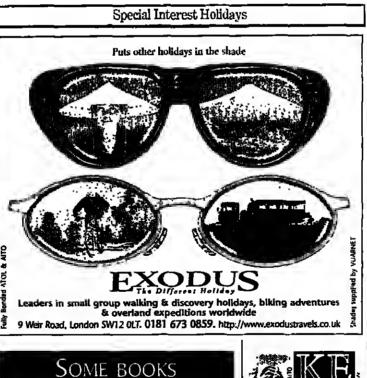
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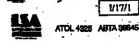
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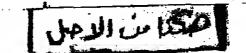
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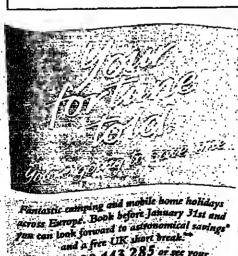
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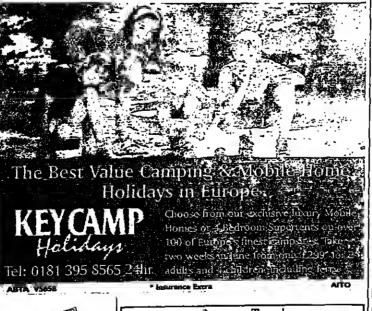
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At the feet of the master: beneath the memorial to Miguel de Cervantes in the Plaza de Espana, is an endearing statue of his most famous creations - Don Quixote and Sancho Panza Photograph: Pictures Colour Library Ltd

## 48 hours in the life of Madrid

For a short cut to the soul of the city. Liz Nash offers a guide.

Why go now?

Because the young Madrileños who inject the city with their vibrant energy are hack from their New Year skiing hreaks and extended family reunions, eager to go out and have fun. And the tourist invasion that immobilises streets, bars and museums won't kick in till Easter; the winter sun spears through your eyelids into your heart, you get 240 pesetas to the pound - and the sales are on.

British Airways (0345 222111) and Iberia (0171-830 1711) have been engaged in a low-attrition fares war on the London-Madrid run for several years. Fares are currently around £120. You may be Lunch on the run able to find lower prices from Luton on Debonair (0500 146200). From other parts of the UK, the best deals may be with KLM via Amsterdam - through discount agents for around £125.

Get your bearings

The airport bus leaves every 15 minutes and takes 45 minutes to get to the central Plaza Colon. The underground bus terminal connects with the tube, where you can ask for a public transport map.

Check in

Book ahead at the Monaco (522 4630), a former brothel, famed for its opulent bedrooms and easy-going decadence, in the lively gay quarter, Chueca. More mainstream is the Suecia (531 6900), amazingly quiet for such a central spot. The five-star Palace (429 1302), opposite the Parliament, dazzles with belleépoque glory after months of being shrouded in scaffolding. Expensive, at up to £200 a head, but unmissable if only The warm-hearted Pension La Coruña (429 2543), a snip at £10 per head, has heautiful views over the Retiro park.

traffic is impossible, so forget the coach tour and take the Teleferico, or cable car, from the Parque del Oeste. Soar over the city and watch trees, the motorway ring road and the feeble Manzanares river fall away beneath you until you arrive in the sprawling Casa de Campo park. Clock the stunning city skyline and after a swift - a wretched, creepy place in my opincuddle suspended in that magnificent sky. laid-back warehouse in Castello 18.

Take a hike

sassiest boulevard and still the throbbing ebrated with enthusiastic fervour beartery of the city. Start at the Plaza de España, ringed by pompous Forties sky-

scrapers and redeemed by an engaging monument to Cervantes with a bronze statue of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza at his feet. Stride past glitzy Art Deco movie palaces with their vast, handpainted film posters; negotiate street vendors, lottery sellers, kids scoffing roast chestnuts, dive into doll shops and bookshops; pass the Telefonica building where journos filed - and were censored - in the Civil War, and proceed to the posh end, dominated by fin-de-siècle buildings, in-cluding the newly restored Metropolis (1905), and the Circulo de Bellas Artes. Make for the Cibeles fountain, emblem of the city, invaded by football fans when Real Madrid win. Opposite is the Central Post Office, whose wedding-cake grandeur evokes an era when Spain had an empire to run, by mail.

Spaniards like to lunch long and late. But for a brisk midday chomp-and-go, try La Toscana (Ventura de la Vega 22) in the beart of bar territory between Plaza Ana and Sol. Get there early (ie hefore 2pm) and you may be seated without having to queue. Specialities are the tomato, tuna and onion salad, and roast veal and chios swimming in luscious meat juice. Non-meat-eaters enjoy deep-fried squid, or scrambled egg with mushrooms and little eels. With frothy beer on tap, or a jug of house red, it is difficult to pay more than £10 a head.

Cultural afternoon

Don't miss the Prado which, even amid disruptive renovations, still offers the finest collection of Goya, Velazquez and El Greco you are ever likely to see. The newly opened top floor contains a rotunda in semi-darkness with a fine collection of Goya drawings illustrating witchcraft, ignorance and superstition. Being fragile, they are on show for only for a drink in the chandeliered lounge. a few months each year. Across the road is Rafael Moneo's Thyssen Bornemisza museum, jammed with dazzling stuff, particularly 19th-century European and 20th-century American art. Canova's masterpiece The Three Graces, on loan Madrid has few architectural gems and from the V&A, is on show in the foyer until 22 February.

Window shopping Shoes are the thing: cheap, elegant and everywhere, Luruena, Serrano 54, just by Marks & Spencer, is loafer heaven. For clothes, try any hranch of the fashion chain Zara, which knocks off the bottest turn about the scrubby Casa de Campo designs in the blink of an eye at half the price of Britain's high-street equivalikely to get a cabin to yourself, so if the emporium of every designer object you company is right, have a 10-minute can imagine, has opened in a matt black,

... down the Gran Via, once Europe's This is Spain's favourite art form, celtween 12 noon and 2pm and between 7pm and 9pm. Try the raucous and kitsch or tertulias, as they did a century ago.

Torre del Oro, a gash of Andalucia on the Plaza Mayor, for a chilled find and coffee-cup-sized tapa of paella. Or, if gory builfight videos are not to your taste, head for Chicote, the city's smartest cocktail bar, at Gran Via 12. This is an austere haven of steel and leather Art Deco curves, unchanged since the Thirties. Occupy one of the side benches, sip the best mojito in town and savour the hush.

Madrid may be 300km from the sea but it has the best and freshest fish in Spain, possibly Europe. And the restaurant for unadorned fishy delight is La Trainera (Lagasca 60), run since the Fifties by cheery Miguel Garcia, whose grandfather used to bring fish to the capital in his icecovered donkey cart. The warren of little rooms with wooden benches and tables gives a casual "ahoy lads" feel to a classy operation.

Sunday morning: go to church Madrid's churches are mostly heavy depressing places but an exception is El Basilico de San Miguel, just off the Plaza de Cordon, a sweet, rococo confection huilt during the rule of the Habsburgs that could have been plucked from a side street of old Vienna. Creamy cherubs and gilded curlicues make you smile, and the surrounding cobbled hilly lanes show a gentler side to this roaring city.

Bracing brunch

Squeeze in sideways to Diaz y Larrouy, Cava Baja 6, a Basque delicatessen and bar that serves sturdy rioja wine insquat numblers, and a fierce, sloppy cheese called torta de casal with wedges: of good, salty bread. Spicy chorizo sausage and smoked salmon canapés will set you up for the day - or at least until siesta-time. By Sunday lunch time hargain-hunters pile in from the nearby Rastro street market.

A walk in the park

The Retiro, once the monarchs' private garden, is a vast, leafy space in the heart of the city. It's a hit nippy just now for. a boatride on the lake, or to linger with the formine tellers, the buskers or the open-air chess enthusiasts, so tramp on and admire the statues, the rose garden and the lovely trees.

Icing on the cake

The coolest souvenir is an oilcloth tablecloth of a post-Franco map of Spain with its 17 autonomous regions clearly delinion-take a return ride. Off season you're lents. Vinçon, a cutting-edge Barcelona eated. Available from Galean, an orthopaedic and exercise goods supplier on Carretas 31. Don't hang about, though: this is a well-known prostitutes' corner. Before taking the airport bus for your flight home, have a coffee in Gijon, Pasco de Recoletos 21, a traditional marble-andmahogany coffee-house, where elderly geots still hold forth in their discussions

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#### COMPETITION WINNERS

We've been having fun all winter long, checking the answers to our New Year competition. The questions were all related to the Beach Boys, and many of you achieved excellent scores - aided by the festive wild card, which allowed one answer to be "God Only Knows".

The tie-break was to nominate the best beach that the Boys never broached. The suggestions girdled the globe: here are the finalists.

Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach: where Norfolk Broads make fast to their Buoys at night" - Steven Brown, Beckenham, Kent

Leigh-on-Sea, Essex: "Tide's out, mud's up, surfing here won't be especially entertaining" - Ralph Conroy, Leigh-on-Sea

Manchester, Massachusetts: "The 'singing beach' (it does exist, honest), which the Boys never broached as Brian Wilson couldn't stand competition from Manchester as well as Liverpool" - ND Michaelson, Knebworth, Henfordshire

Copacabana, Lake Titicaca, Bolivia: \*Scarcely a wave or person, cold beer in pale sun by old carousel" - L Hamilton,

Brighton, East Sussex: "They wanted to catch a wave, not a cold" - Michael Langham, London

All these people receive copies of Lonely Planet's US Phrasebook. The second prize, of a neat pair of eye shades, goes to L Hamilton's lyrical suggestion; and this year's overall champion, winning an inflatable beach bed, is Michael Langham for bis suggestion of Brighton.

Thank you all for entering - and watch this space in December for our next geomusical quiz.



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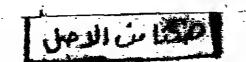
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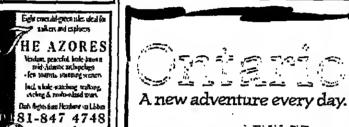
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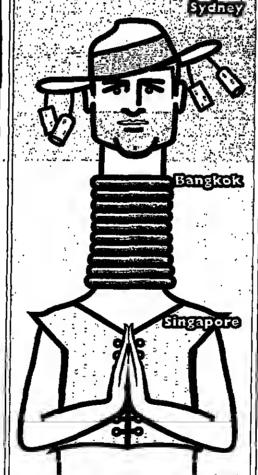
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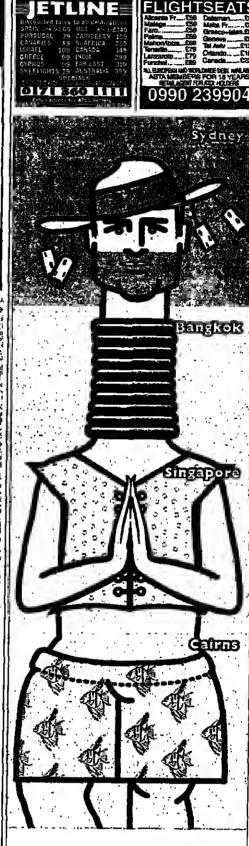
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# Miss World wheels

You don't have to be a motoring enthusiast to enjoy the museum at Beaulieu. Emma Haughton and her family were unexpectedly captivated.

Whatever misgivings you may have about the impact of the internal combustion engine, Beaulieu's Motor Museum is undemably fascinating. Crammed with more than 250 classic cars and motorbikes, it's like Miss World for four wheels. The bulky Daimler 1899 12HP, the majestic, brass-and-green Bugatti 1910 Type 13, the elegant Bluehird land speed record breaker: these are the starlets of motoring, their glamorous bodywork gleaming with a shine you could powder your nose by.

But Beaulieu is not just a load of old cars. There are informative displays on every imaginable aspect of motoring - from road design to spark plugs - while a science section allows hands-on exploration of the basic principles of cars and their engines. You can also explore an old red London hus, while watching a video of its history. But topping the bill is the Wheels exhibition, a multimedia extravaganza bringing alive 100 years of motoring history. Seated in your little carriage, you're twirled around corridors of displays and blasted with the sounds and smells of yesteryear.

Beyond the museum, kids can get a taste of life in the fast lane on the Fast Trax virtual racing games, or enjoy a spin through the motoring century in the simulator. You can also take a vertiginous ride on the monorail through the roof of the motor gardens. Seat of the Montagus since 1538, this stately home is packed with family portraits and other mementos, and was once



the gatehouse to the adjoining 13th-century abbey, where you can now explore the daily life of Cistercian monks in its ruins.

Emma Haughton, a freelance writer, went with her husband, Jonathan Rees, and their three hoys, Joshua, seven, Flan, five, and Zachary, two.

Joshua: I loved the virtual racing because with steering-wheels. I liked the simulator, museum and on to Palace House and its too; at first it pretended you were in an old motor car, and then you went in faster and Flan: There were lots of cars in the

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In the museum there was a science hit the simulator car when it was going into the happily have spent a week there. Walking where you try things out about cars and how they work, which was really interesting.

I liked the monorail, the secret stairs in Palace House and the Wheels exhibition. There was a model prehistoric man who looked like a friend of ours called Neil, I particularly liked the bit where it was all way. All the staff were very friendly and when we were sitting on this old bus a man I like playing computer games, especially came in and gave us all a free pen. I'd really like to go back and do everything again.

faster ones until in the end it crashed. It museum, some with dummies in. They look

jungle and it felt really bumpy. The monorail was quite scary when you were going. because it was so high off the ground and wobbled a bit.

I loved all the bits of the Wheels. You get into a little train and this bar comes down on your lap and you go round the 3D, and the hovercars on the little motor-track and see loads of things about cars. We went round twice because we liked it so

Jonathan: I really thought Beaulieu wouldn't be for mc, because as far as I'm concerned n car is just something that takes you from A to B - if you're lucky. In fact real but they're only plastic people. I liked I found it all completely fascinating - I could models at Beaulieu's Motor Museum Photograph: Brian Hams

'They look real but they're only plastic people.' Flan Rees was intrigued by the life-like

Emma: I don't have a good relationship with cars. I resent being dependent on them, and am so utterly indifferent to what I drive that I can barely tell a Mini from a Mercedes. Even so, I was captivated by the sheer beauty of these old classics.

I was really impressed with the comprehensive attention to detail. Such pains had been taken to recreate all the antique household sundries in an old delivery van. for instance, and the tools and spares in the reproduction of an old garage and workshop. But perhaps the best aspect of my day was Beaulieu's staff. Reg, the principal car cleaner, reassured us that the cars were taken out for regular frolics, and he even told us the secret of their enviable shine (elhow grease). Without exception everyone we came into contact with went out of their way to be friendly and polite. It was such a refreshing change this side of the

#### The deal

Getting there: the Beaulieu Motor Museum (01590 612123) is in the New Forest between Southampton and Bournemouth, just off B3056. The nearest railway station is Brockenhurst, a short taxi ride away.

Opening times: daily, 10am-5pm; Easter to September, until 6pm. Closed Christmas Day. Some features, such as the simulator your past - huses, signposts, old Corgi model cars. I was a bit disappointed to see and Fast Trax virtual reality games, must be paid for separately.

Admission: adult £8.50; four to 16 years, All the hands-on stuff about how cars f6; family ticket, for two adults and four work was brilliant, but best of all was the children, £28.

Access: there is full wheelchair access to Each little section was obviously a real the motor museum, restaurant and ground labour of love, and, more than that, it was floor of Palace House.

all done with humour and affection. The Facilities: the Brabazon food court and bars whole thing, Palace House included, was offer a good range of food and drink at reagreat, but what really made it for me was sonable prices. You can also picnic in the grounds.

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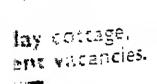
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## Plug in for spring

Convenience gardening sacrifices adventure for instant results, but in midwinter that can be reassuring. Here is a range of young, ready-grown plants to

order now for the growing season.

The latest edition of The Seed Search tells you where you can buy seed of 40,000 different plants. Just stop and think about that that the whole of the native flora of Britain all the doom and gloom about flowers disappearing, forests hurning, wild hulbs shrivelling in the hands of rapacious dealers, it is remarkable that any of us, if we wanted, could pick up the phone and order the means of growing such a vast variety of living things.

But we don't. Lists of the 10 best-selling varieties of flower seeds change remarkably little from year to year. Lohelia, dwarf impatiens, godetia, sweet peas, nasturtium, petunia, night-scented stocks, hegonia, geranium and pansy were the favourites five years ago. Godetia, stocks, dwarf impatiens, auhrieta, gcranium, lobelia, nasturtium 'Alaska Mixed' and sunflowers are the seed merchant Suttons' current hest-sellers. Only the newly fashionable sunflower speaks of any real shift in taste.

It's because we are so predictable as gardeners that seed companies were able to switch smoothly a few years ago into offering us baby plants as a - more expensive alternative to seed. You could huy a packet of seed of the new creamy-coloured petunia 'Banana Milkshake' from Mr Fothergill for £2.15. Two dozen "plugs" of the same variety cost three times as much, but this is still cheaper than huying 24 full-grown petunias at planting-out time in May.

Plugs represent a slightly more certain vision of the future than a seed packet does. Petunias are oot easy to raise from seed if you work, as I do, with a combination of windowsills, airing cupboards and spare hedrooms, rather than with a professional greenhouse and a state-of-the-art propagator. The seed is very fine and germinates best at a temperature of 65-70°F. Because it's so fine, it is best left uncovered on the surface of the compost, but the seedlings then need a little fine compost sifted over them as they begin to grow. All this is fiddly.

a disastrous tendency to damp off - a kind of horticultural hara-kiri.

The petunia is one of the few flowers that has dropped from the best-selling list of seeds in the last five years because people now choose to grow them from plugs or huy them as fully grown plants. There are varieties in Mr Fothergill's Young Plant catalogue alone.

number. Put it in context by remembering to make us lose reason, but after a summer when many petunias melted to a slimy only amounts to about 2,000 plants. Amidst mush in the rain, phrases such as "weather resistant" have a point. 'Fantasy Mixed', an F1 hybrid, has smallish flowers, but there are lots of them and they weather well. Mr Fothergill's sells 24 plugs for £6.45.

I could live without petunias, hut I'd hate to be without lobelias, which are also fiddly

#### **ANNA PAVORD**

'Jewel Mixed', sweet pea, nasturtium 10 raise from seed, hut excellent and easy from plugs. "Hackneyed," said a friend dismissively, when I put them near the top of my own list of favourite annuals. "Nonsense." I replied. It's not their fault they are so often lined out like morse code, hive dots between dashes of white alyssum. The plants themselves are enchanting. A little while ago, some self-seeded from a tub in our garden into the cracks of the paving stones below. I liked the effect so much that now I plant them in cracks deliherately.

I also plant them between low patches of dianthus, to fill up the ground where the spring-flowering tulips are slowly settling in. The tulips are the most important plants there, and I don't ever want the summer display to crowd the hulbs out. Lobelia understands that. Mr Fothergill's has the bronze-leaved dark blue 'Crystal Palace' (24 plugs for £5.95) and 'Regarta Blue Splash', which I grew last year from seed. It's a trailing type, the white flowers splashed and stained with pale hlue.

White Lady is a pretty little bushy white-flowered lobelia (£8.95 for 110 miniplants or £7.95 for 40 easiplants, from Suttons). Don't follow their serving suggestion - this white lobelia planted alternately with Then just when you thought you'd got them hive ageratum. Lobelia deserves better. So

over the worst hurdles, the seedlings have does ageratum, if we are talking plant rights.

Ageratum by nature is a tallish (18-20in). loose-headed beauty. Blue Bouquet (Chiltern Seeds, 95p) gives an idea of what it could do, if only breeders wouldn't turn it into a squash-faced, congested, dumpy little plant, with flowers that hall up in the rain. Ageratum blue is a particularly good masses on offer - more than 30 different colour, slightly slaty, hazy, lovely with a sharp, acid-drop yellow, or with purple. But if you want plugs, dumplings is all you can The whole point of such catalogues is get: 'Blue Haze', 8in high, from Suttons (£9.25 for 100 seedlings or £7.95 for 40 easiplants) or 'Blue Mist', 6in high, from Dobies (£9,25 for 100 seedlings, or £7.95 for 40 easiplants).

Most firms offer plants in five different sizes, from seedlings to jumbo plugs. The higger they are of course, the more per plant you pay, but a jumbo plug leaves little room for error on the part of the gardener, as they can he planted out so quickly.

When they arrive (they are usualty sent by first-class mail), I plant out all plugs and seedlings, whatever size, in individual 3-in plant pots. This is expensive in compost, but the plants grow vigorously and their roots are disturbed very little when they are planted out. If you set seedlings or miniplugs together in seed trays, the roots tangle with each other and so the plants get a shock when you prise them apart before planting them out. In these dark, galehowling days, that's what I'm dreaming of: planting, planting, planting. Roll on spring.

'The Seed Search', compiled and edited by Karen Platt, is available (£10.99 + £1,75 p&p) direct from Karen Platt at 35 Longfield Rd. Crookes, Sheffield \$10 1QW. The Young Plant Catalogue' is available from Mr Fothergill's, Kentford, Suffolk CB8 7QB (01638 552512). Order all Mr Fothergill's young plants by 20 March. Speed plugs from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk 1P8 3BU (01473 688821) need to be ordered by 15 March. Young plants can be ordered up to 15 April Last orders for most of Dobies's petunias must be in by 11 March; for ageratum 'Blue Mist' by 4 Feb. Order a catalogue from Broombill Way. Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QW (01803 616888). Sutions' young plants are listed in their seed catalogue, from Hele Rd, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7Q1 (01803 614455). Order ageratum Blue Haze' by 5 Feb, lobelia 'White Lady' by 19 Feb. Plugs are available in a range of other annuals, including asters, antirthinum. begonia, brachyzcome, gazania, helichysum, geranium, imputiens, marigold and nicotiana.



Bestseller: petunia surfina 'Pink vein'

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#### GARDENING

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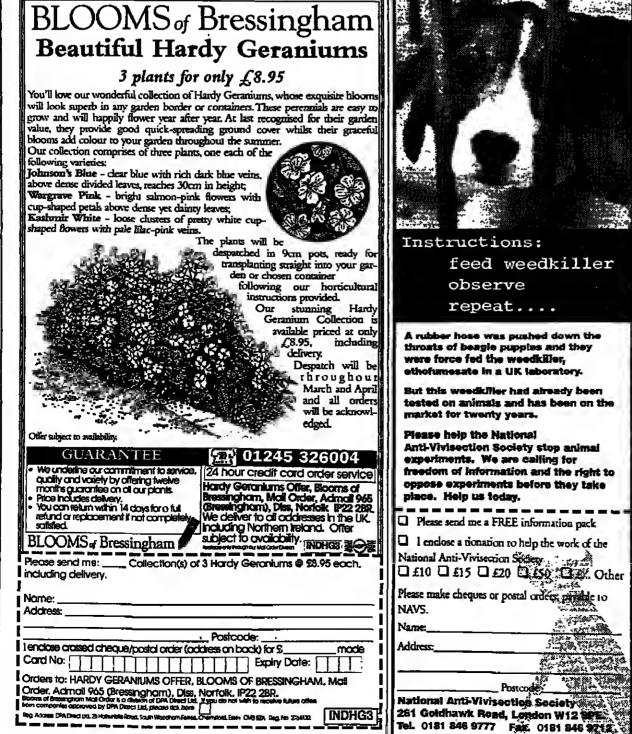
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#### **CUTTINGS**

## The trouble with Agnes

Next Saturday the Kew guide Eric Taylor will lead a Cooks Tour round the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, highlighting the unusual food plants that flourish in Kew's hothouses. Bananas, coffee beans, tea plants and Caribbean star fruit all grow in the Palm House. Kew could also supply the highly nutritious durian fruit, netive to Maleysia and Indonesia - if anybody ever wanted it. Usually they don't, because it smells so terrible. Saturday's tour leaves from the Victoria Gate visitor centre at 11.30am and will he repeated on . Wednesday 25 February. For details of other themed tours, contact Kew on 0181 332 5633.

A little while ago I wrote about the 'Agnes' rose in our garden, which had had 15 years to get its act together and had failed miserably. 1 never saw a single one of its hig. double, amber-yellow flowers, and finally dispatched the hush to the bonfire. Lavena Hawes has the same problem. "My courtyard garden in central Cambridge is packed with plants," she writes. "I have about 15 different roses, including the rugosa rose 'Agnes'. She was planted in 1986 in memory of my mother, next to 'Mme Isaac Pereire' and 'Alfred de Dalmas'. They flowered with gay abandon again this summer but 'Agnes' has only ever had one bloom in the whole of her life.

This year she had three huds, hut they just turned brown and dropped off. So do 1 follow your example and give her a quiet burial? I haven't any room to plant her elsewhere." Space in a small garden is too precious to

waste on no-hopers. My answer is an unequivocal "Yes".

Weekend breaks for gardeners are on offer at the The Swan Hotel, Southwold, Suffolk, well within reach of some of the area's finest gardens. During the weekend you can visit Mark Rumary's fine garden at Yoxford, a garden designed by Lanning Roper at Orford, and Lord and Lady Tollemache's acres at Helmingham Hall. There will also be a champagne welcome at Michaet Loftus's excellent nursery, Woottens of Wenhaston. For full details of this and other gardening breaks in July and September, contact Dudley Clarke at The Swan (01502 722186).

Visiting gardens in France has never been easier, thanks to the Channel Tunnel. Within hours you could be wandering beside the newly planted ponds of the Manoir de Pontgirard, admiring the strictly regulated design of Mme Wirth's garden at Château de Brécy, swooning over the swaths of colour planted by Mme de Carpentier in the walled gardens at Château de Canon and checking out the fruit at the Jardins des Plantes in Rouen. Details of these and other Normandy gardens are available from the Normandy Tourist Board, The Old Bakery, Bath Hill, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1HG (01179 860386).

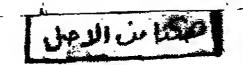
Agriframes made its name with metal arches, trellises, pergolas, bowers and fruit cages for gardeners, but its mail-order catalogue wanders much deeper into gardening territory. It offers tool lockers and tip bags,

boots and bamboo screens. Agriframes also sells spun polypropylene fleece, warm. permeable and translucent. Use it to protect the heads of bay trees or tree ferns during winter. Or set it over young seedlings to protect them from attack. A roll of fleece 40ft x 5ft costs £10.25. For a copy of the mail-order catalogue, contact Agriframes at Charlwoods Rd, East Grinstead. West Sussex RH19 2HG (01342

Marceline Siddons set up The Conservatory shortly after she had finished her botany degree at Cambridge. She wanted to supply not just conservatory plants, but also the right kind of advice on how best to grow them. So if a plant is a martyr to. red spider, she doesn't hide the fact. But if she thinks it is worth growing anyway, she'll tell you that as well. The most recent catalogue produced by Ms Siddons and her husband, : Chris, lists nine different kinds of abutilon and five acacias. She also has maurandya, which I grew on the south front of the house this summer. Too much leaf to flower was my verdict; however, that might change if the plant were grown in a conservatory," and kept dryer and hungrier. For enthusiasts, there are 13 different kinds of citrus and 15 bougainvillaeas.

The Conservatory at Gomshall Gallery, Gomshall, Surrey GU5 9LB (01483 203019) is open Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm and Sunday afternoons from April to the end of September. Plants can also be sent by mail order.

Anna Pavora



widly evokes n ver than that t ens to embody t d when the ar of the July sur

ohn Beasle Andrew Wh:

## Hay – take a load of this and remember summer

No farmyard smell more powerfully evokes memories of summer than that of well-made hay. Fragrant and sweet, the scent seems to embody the heat that prevailed when the grass was cut, and the sleepy atmosphere of the days when it cooked under the blaze of the July sun.

Our yard is full of hay now, because we re-cently imported a load of hales to supplement our dwindling stocks. The consignment just finished was moderate to poor, the product of unsettled weather last July. Having cut the grass and watched it lie on the field for days, never quite drying out, the farmer had to bale it when he got the chance, hefore more rain fell. In truth it was not quite ready - but it was a case of then or never.

Hastily summoned, we drove out to collect our load from a field on the very edge of the Cotswold plateau. The wind was howling in from the west, and as we looked out over the plain, we could see another storm rushing in up the Bristol

II was therefore all bands to the bales bale weighs 40lb or 50lh. These were more like 75lb - a nightmare to hoist above one's head - and the effort reminded me of an occasion, years ago, when we were unloading from a high-piled trailer. I was standing on the ground and looking the other way when tween other jobs to do whatever is needed culture in Dbofar, and remains one of the Alan, the fellow up top, dropped a bale

The impact almost knocked me out. I

felt my neck crunch down with the suddeo weight, and for several seconds I was unsteady on my feet. What brought me round was rage, when I heard Alan exclaim, with interest rather thao sympathy, "Cor, look - made 'im hloody stagger.'

Last year, when we got the damp hay bome, we did oot dare stack the bales at once, for fear they would comhust spootaneously. So we stood them all on eod, with air between each one and its neighbours, and left them like that for three weeks.

#### **DUFF** HART-DAVIS

The result was that they kept all right, and turned out reasonably palatable. Yet our new supply is markedly superior, not only in smell but also in texture. It came from a farm down the valley, where two hrothers regularly make excellent hay from their fields on what can only be called the toes of the Cotswolds - the final low and a fearful weight they were. A good dry humps, beyond the main escarpment,

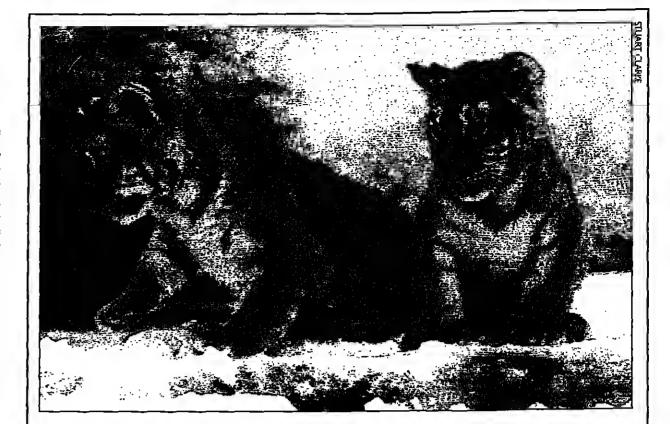
where the hills run down to the Severn plain. much better or worse than higher up, but the brothers, who are also builders, watch

without warning, end-on 00 to my head. Moreover, they have large, airy barns, which are ideal for storage.

Their 1997 crop seems particularly good. It is meadow hay - a mixture of softish grasses and wild flowers - rather than specially-grown rye grass, which is harder, and favoured by racehorse trainers because it contains less dust. An agreeable, hiscuity light brown in colour, it is clearly much more delicious than the old. Sheep and horses are whacking into it, and our alpacas by oo means turn up their delicate ooses at it, clearly implying that it is better stuff thao one gets on the Chilean altiplaco.

Nor is the value of the bale-stack to be measured in outritional terms only. The chickens find it highly acceptable as a nesting site, and small children love mountaineering oo it in search of eggs. Rosie, our fluffiest cat, spends hours sitting high up, lost in dreams of mice - so many hours, in fact, that when eventually she comes indoors, she too smells deliciously of hay. Humans, also, have been known to take root out there while they think things over.

We tend to take hay for granted, and suppose that all farmers have made it since time immemorial. I therefore find it curious to reflect that in southern Oman, with its baking climate, nobody had thought of trying to preserve fodder until the Special Air Service showed farmers how to do it during the campaigns of the Seventies. For I do not suppose the weather there is centuries the locals had killed bull calves in infancy, knowing that after the monsooo rains they would have nothing to feed them it cannily, dashing out in fine intervals be- oo. The innovation revolutionised agri-- cut, scatter, row-up, turn and bale. SAS's lasting memorials in the area.



#### NATURE NOTE

Most people probably think of hig cats as creatures of hot continents: lions belong in Africa, rigers in India. Yer European safari park owners have found that both species manage perfectly in a cold climate. Jimmy Chipperfield, who invented the safari park, and opened the first one at Longleat in 1966, was

the family's travelling circus that animals would quickly adapt to outdoor life and experience proved him right. The cats' answer is to grow magnificent fur coats in winter, Thus armoured, lions and tigers happily spend the chilliest days outdoors, and need no special heating in their sleeping-quarters. All confident from his days as lion-trainer in tigers love water. In India, during the

hot weather, they sit for hours in rivers or takes, immersed up to their necks. Here, they have been known to hreak the ice on ponds to have a winter dip. Perhaps their secret is that (as some specialists believe) all tigers are descended from the Siberian strain not only the largest, but also the best equipped for low temperatures.

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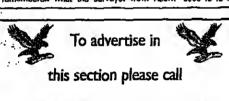
#### Stairlifts Survive Storm

will it. "Un no" I replied, the thought of Acom manufacture and install - one day all stepping on the sofa with the wind ratting the stairlifts will be built this way".

windows almost had me in lears, then I for more information on Acom Stairlifts contact remembered what the surveyor from Acom D800 19 19 19.

As storms roared across the country this Christmas leaving pylons in their wake, thousands of homes were hit by power cuts. For fundreds of elderly and disabled stairlift users this meant that as well as being without power supply thay were also imprisoned downstairs as their stairlifts were inoperable until the supply could be restored which, for some people, meant days raker than hours, that is epart from people like Margaret Monris of Weles.

We were so anxious and worried about keeping warp and binning out candles we hadn't given at thought about the stairlift until bedtime when my husband said, "I'd better get some bedding down, you'll have to sleep down here love" - "Why?" I said, "Because the stairlift work work work will it." "Oh no" I replied, the thought of



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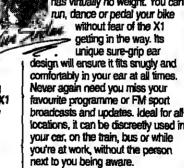
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## Motorised mud-wrestling

You need high mud tolerance, a willingness to spend all day in second gear, and an ability to obey three rules. Eric Kendali goes four-wheel driving.

Speed is exactly what off-road driving is not about: "If you think you can take your brain out and put the boot in, you should try humper cars," was the gist of the briefing session, during which I learnt the three rules: 1) always keep your thumbs in a "thumbs up" position while grasping the steering wheel; 2) don't touch the foot pedals unless specifically told to do so; 3) don't stick your arm out to hrace yourself if the vehicle rolls.

And you probably thought the ability to drive a car was going to be an advantage.

The rules make sense when you start to appreciate what you're in for: gripping thumbs can get broken by the spokes of the spinning steering-wheel as it kicks; indiscriminate use of the accelerator, brake and, most of all, clutch pedal can have unusual effects away from Tarmac; and, finally, the roll cage and harnesses are there to stop you being crushed ur falling out - any limb that is sticking out will snap off in a similar but more

serious way than the thumbs in rule one. The only problem is that, like the rules, most uf the practice of four-wheel-driving is counter-intuitive to anyone acquainted with driving on the road. Some of the mechanical differences are obvious: power is supplied to four rather than two wheels, and the tyres

are hig and cbunky. But the hidden differences, such as the long engine stroke and hefty flywbeel, mean that it's practically impossible to stall the engine. Once in gear, that's where you leave it. You certainly shouldn't slip the clutch, even as you slow to a halt; with the drum hrakes full of water most of the time, the engine

serves both for going and for stopping.

ft's astonishing, and a mighty relief, the first time you try "first gear, no brakes" down a small cliff. It was only at the end of the day that I realised I hadn't once used the footbrake going downhill - not even a dab. And these are inclines that would make Franz

But you've got to get up there first. Mud, brake was used - I got just enough downward trees, troughs as deep as the vehicle, rocks force on the pedal by hracing my knee unand pools of water, are all connected on the der the steering-wheel for extra leverage. steep hillside by a track of sorts.

traction isn't the whole story. A mixture of driving techniques is essential: exploiting the weight transfer from front to back, then forward again by punching the accelerator; reading the terrain to ride over obstacles such as slippery rocks and roots before bringing the power back on: using the steering to rock the vehicle from side to side, increasing grip alternately from teft to right. It may sound improbable when they describe it to you, but

The driving sensation is direct and physical. Unless you've got power steering, the wheel takes some turning, and when it kicks (thumbs up) as you drop into a big rut, there's no question of stopping it. The ride is as you would expect, only worse – lurching and rolling, with the occasional bang from below as the vehicle "bellies out".

Progress, both across the ground and in driving technique, comes by degrees. The various stages, from Mickey Mouse and the Graveyard Run, to Shooters Alley, the Stump Run and Figure Eight higher up the hill, get ever harder. Each one mixes new tests together in a tighter area, with less breathing space a confidence-building way to learn. By the time I'd knocked over a small tree half-way through the afterooon, I felt in total control, master of my machine and the environment (a sapling is planted for every tree mown down).

I knew I was ready for the Dragon's Back, the final trail which blends insane drops with tight turns, obstacles and deep water, never allowing a moment's slack. By the third time round without a stutter, I was really enjoying myself, and I'd devised my own offroad driving rules: trust the instructor, trust the machine, and trust your thumbs to do as they're told.

"Ergonomics" wasn't in the dictionary when they built the Series One Land Rover; whatever the technical reasons for minimal use of the pedals, they're such hard work that you won't feel inclined to use them at all. On very steep stall-starts - the only time the foot-

Modern-day four-wheel-drives are a dif-Just powering all four wheels to provide ferent story, though for serious off-roading, early Land Rover models have a strong following, due in part to the use of bodywork in tight manoeuvres. Based on extreme London parking techniques, this involves using every corner of the vehicle to contact ohstacles when necessary, levering round trees, using the side of the vehicle as a pivol.

> Learning about how a four-wheel-drive works and confident talk of "diff locks" and "transmission wind-up" is, for many, a less appealing aspect of the subject. In practice, having enough theory to understand how the machine transmits its power to the ground under varying conditions is fundamental and doesn't require prior knowledge of, or even interest in, motor sport.

Unless you want to hring your own 4x4, all you need for a day's off-roading are old clothes, waterproof jacket and trousers. hoots, and a high mud tulerance. The best machines have nu windscreen or windows, so be prepared for the etcments. In dry summer conditions, dust and (surprisingly) reduced control are majur factors. It's extremely unlikely that driving will ever be cancelled owing to weather conditions: when off-road, adverse equals better. Whatever the time of year, you'll spend all day never getting out of second gear.

One-day introductions to off-roading at the Baskerville Challenge in Herefordshire are available through Acorn Activities (01432 830083) who can provide a complete package including accommodation nearby. They also have off-road locations in Shropshire and Wales. A more serious two-day course for professional four-wheel-drive users such as mountain rescue, police and fire services is also available, (My thanks to Don Clarke, senior instructor at the Baskerville Challenge, and his 1952 Series One 80-incb wheelbase Land Rover.) The Land Rover Experience (0121 700 4619), based on a track at the Solihull Land Rover factory, offers courses at various levels for recreational and specialist professional drivers.



King off the road: the minimalist Land Rover soaks up mud and trees with ease

Photograph: Penny Kendall

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#### **GAMES**

#### WILLIAM HARTSTON THE SUBLIME UNUSELESSNESS OF CHINDOGU

Have you ever wondered how to utilise the energy of crawling babies? Or how to improve a companion's accuracy in scratching your back? Or how to deal with the problem of noodles that are too bot?

If you have ever worried about such things, and particularly if you have worried about them enough to come up with a solution, but above all if that solution is inherently totally impractical, then you could easily have all the qualifications to master the oriental art of Chindogu.

The term - it means "strange tools" - was coined by the Japanese inventor and bumourist Kenji Kawakami, whose book 101 Unuseless Inventions was published in 1995 and followed, two years later, by 99 More Unuseless Japanese Inventions. The concept of Unusefulness is central to the spirit of Chindogu. To qualify, an invention must be seen as a solution to a real problem, yet must, at some level, be so

deeply flawed that it is as near useless as makes no difference.

Like the cleaning pads that may be attached to a baby's limbs so that it polishes the floor as it learns to crawl; or the back-scratcher's t-shirt, which has a grid marked on the back so that instead of saying up-a-bit, left-a-hit, the scratchee can, on being told the coordinates of the scratcher's fingertip, direct him or ber to the precise location of the itch; or the small fan that may be attached to a chopstick in order to cool noodles on their way from plate to mouth.

While Chindogu have been slow to gain great popularity in Japan, they bave attained cult status in America and become widely admired in Germany. There are now some 10,000 members of the International Chindogu Society, which may be found on the Interoet at this address: http:// www.pin.edu/~ctnst3/chindogu.html where there are also 10 examples of

you join now," the page tells us, "the \$10 membership fee is waved (sic), hut you must provide a chindogu idea. (Don't worry about anyone 'steeling' your idea. If it is worth steeling, then it's not chindogu!)" Unbad spelling is also evidently not part of Chindogu.

The Society spells out the Ten Tenets of Chindogu, which together define the art:

1) A Chindogu cannot be for real use: it is fundamental to the spirit of Chindogu that inventions must, from a practical point of view, be almost

completely useless. 2) A Chindogu must exist: a concept is not enough; you must have made it. "In order to be useless, it must first be."

3) Inherent in every Chindogu is the spirit of anarchy: they represent freedom of thought and action, broken free from the chains of usefulness. 4) Chindogu are tools for everyday

the art, complete with photographs. "If life; not specialised or technical inventions.

Chindogu are not for sale: even for a joke - if you accept money for one, you surrender your purity. 6) Humour must not be the sole reason for producing a Chindogu:

humour is the by-product uf a problem-solving activity. 7) Chindogu is not propaganda: they are made to be used, even though

they cannot be used. They are not a comment on society. 8) Chindogu are never taboo. No

cheap sexual innuendo. 9) Chindogu cannot be patented: they are offerings to the world.

10) Chindogu are without prejudice: for young and old, male and female, of all races and religions.

Ideas for Chindogu will be welcome at: Chindogu, Saturday Games, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. No prizes, but we'll publish those we like best.

#### PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

#### Helen Storey, 38, designer Kate Storey, 36, biologist.

We bad two brothers, so there would be times when maybe the boys would play together, or we'd play with the boys. There was a lot of fighting, which is normal when you have four children in a very small flat.

Pillow-fights bappened quite often, and we were occasionally given toys which would last for a bit and then break. We were given bows and arrows, so around Easter-time we were all Red Indians.

We also enjoyed scaring each other shitless by playing hide-and-seek. The flat was in a very dark Victorian villa in Belsize Park, so there were plenty of places to hide. You hid in the coat-rack with your feet in the wellington boots and waited until one of your sihlings went past on their way to the lavatory. That was quite popular.

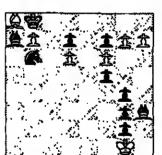
The two of us bad a ridiculous game which we used to play when we were about 10 or 11. It was called boarding-schools. We knew some people who went to

boarding school. They slept there and they had another life. We thought that what you did at boarding school was ride horses all. day and do anything you liked.

We would pretend we had horses when we went on our obligatory walks on Hampstead Heath every Sunday. We'd canter off into the distance; then we'd go into the bushes and have one of those strange conversations about being in a boarding school Our imaginary boarding school bad a lot to do with freedom; a place where we could organise things ourselves and be left to our own devices. but obviously our parents were quite nearby. Occasionally we got into trouble. We'd often run into the kinds of men in busbes who wear raincoats. That shocked us, and eventually put an end to our boarding-school game.

Helen Storey's acclaimed autobiography 'Fighting Fashion' is published by Faber & Faber, price £25 (hardback), £12.99 (softback).

#### CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON



My old friend and colleague Cotonet Walter Pothill drew my attention to today's position which, he tells me, be first encountered when he led Polhill's XI on a chess tour of South Africa in the early 50s. "We'd scarcely disembarked

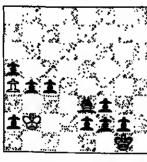
from the boat," the Colonel said, "when some chappie came up to us with a chess set and set up the position in the diagram above. Said it was a game from the South African championship. Black to move.

I glanced at the position and expressed some puzzlement. Black just moves his knight anywhere at ail and it's mate.

"Ah," Polhill explained. "you don't understand the South Africans. At that time it was forbidden for Black to win. No, it was White who won the game - and in just seven moves."

I suggested that Black must have just shuffled around, refusing to give mate, and then resigned, but Polhill said not: "Too patronising, old boy. No, the game must end in mate. Seven moves each,

Black playing first, ending with White giving mate. It looked a tough one to crack, but before I bad a chance to become engrossed in it, the Colonel set up another position on an



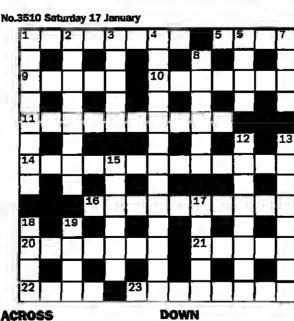
adjacent board.

I asked whether White had won this one, too - thinking that I was making a joke, but the colonel assured me that be had - and again in just seven moves each, with Black moving first. "Damn clever, these South Africans," be said. "Been playing by their own, White-always-wins, rules for so long, that they can always find a way, if there is one. It's an art form sadly lost

in the modern world." But before be could explain how either game had ended, he made bis excuses and left. Perhaps you can work out the

Answers: A) 1.f4 b8=N 2.f3 Ng6 3.fxg6 g8=B 4.g5 Be6 5.dxe6 d7 6.Kc7 h8=R 7.e5 d8=Q mate. B) 1.a1=Q+ Kc2 2.Qe5 Kb1 3.Qb5 axb5 4.el = B b6 5.fl = R h7 6.Kf2h8=Q 7.g1=N Qh2 mate.

#### CONCISE CROSSWORD



Spoke indistinctly (8) Muslim leaders (5) 10 Carrion-eating bird (7) 11 Temperature-controlled switch (10)

ors (13) 16 Driving force (10) 21 Cunning (5) 22 Record (4) 23 Troublemaker (8)

#### DOWN

Fruits of the may tree (4)

14 Disrespectful to superi-

20 African country (7)

Uphold (8) Journey across (8) Surrey racecourse (5) Attempting to overhear conversation (13)

Fit of fever (4) Appear (4) Caustic chemical (6) 12 Advocate of non-violence (8)

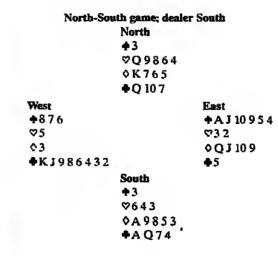
13 Santa's draught animals 15 Tedious (6)

17 Of pale colour (5) 18 Aid (4) 19 Snare (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Force, 4 Tar (Four-star), 7 Iris, 8 Tentacle, 9 Congratulate, 10 Closer, 13 Locker, 15 Swimming bath, 19 Lipstick, 20 Acid, 21 Gin, 22 Dwell. DOWN: 1 Forgo, 2 Resigns, 3 Extra, 4 Tiara, 5 Relieve, 6 Annual, 11 Lasting, 12 Remain. 14 Cahhage, 16 Ibsen,17 Naked, 18 Trial.

#### **BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON**



When you hold a hand such as South's on this deal, you may have a problem with your opening bid, hut what you do not expect is the full orchestra striking

South opened One Heart, West pre-empted with Four Clubs and, under pressure, North decided to compete with Four Hearts. Not one to be excluded from the act, East was there with Four Spades and South jumped to Six Hearts. West considered a sacrifice. in spades (which would have cost 1,100 points) but decided to pass.

West led ♠8 against Six Hearts and, after taking his ace, East returned his singleton club. Now South was able to claim, explaining that he was drawing trumps and throwing two diamonds from dummy on \$\,\ph\$K.Q.

This cost East-West 1,430 points and East was mildly irritated that his partner had not saved. West, however, remained unapologetic, for he had studied the full hand. We can defeat Six Hearts," be claimed.

"Ruhhish," replied his partner politely. Well, who was right?

It was the inoffensive West whose analysis was more accurate. Suppose that East had withheld his SA at trick one. It would have been a play that could easily bave been wrong but, as the cards lie, although South does not lose a spade trick, he cannot escape two diamond losers.

#### BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

Despite its importance, there have been very few books devoted purely to the topic of doubling. Two books were published in 1982. If you ever come across a copy of Dynamic Cube Strategies by Gaby Horowitz and Bruce Roman my advice would be to tread warily, much of its content having been shown to be flawed. The second book was in an altogether different class and is still excellent reading if you can find a copy. It is The Doubling Cube in Backgammon - Vol. 1 by Jeff Ward. Intended originally as the first in a multi-volume set, it sets out very clearly the basics of doubling and redoubling, including the maths for those who want to delve that deep, and examines racing doubles in great depth. Ward's refinement of the Thorpe Count, known not unsurprisingly as the Ward Count is well worth. knowing. It is a great shame he never found time to write the subsequent volumes.

A new book Backgammon: Winning with the Doubling Cube by Peter Bell has just been published by the Gammon Press. While more verbose than Ward's tome and despite some of the prose being somewhat transatiantic, it summarises in 200 pages the basics of doubling. It looks at doubling cube fundamentals, when and when not to double, how to evaluate winning chances, when to take, the psychology of doubling, and it provides a number of benchmark positions for typical game types. It also looks at how to change your play of the men depending upon who owns the cube, and includes some amusing anecdotes to illustrate points made in the text.

Bell also looks at the difficult problem of evaluating blitzes, backgames and prime v prime positions by the use of formulae. These formulae are as yet unproved, but in the complex world of doubling something is better than nothing and they are certainly a step forward. At times, the book goes a little fast for my: liking but if you are going to cover the doubling cube in a short book then there will have to be some elements that can only be touched on lightly. At \$30 plus \$12postage and packing this is not cheap, but if you are serious about improving and want to gain a better understanding of doubling cube theory then the investment is worthwhile. Like all backgammon books it will take several readings to get the best out of it and then will come the most difficult part: putting into practice what you have learnt. Gammon Press, PO Box 294. Arlington MA 02174, USA. Tel: 001-617-641-2091.

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## What did you think of chapter 3?

You may have read a book - but you haven't experienced it to the full until you've discussed it with another reader. Or so say members of the increasingly popular readers' groups. Mike Higgins reports.

"A masterpiece that moves faster than the speed of thought," the New York Times said of Neuro-nuancer. The Observer described its author, William Gibson, as "the Raymond Chandler of SF". But "Cyber-wank," reckons Sarah Rogers, of the Earls Court Waterstone's Book Discussion Group.

Few other members of the group are as forthright as the 51-year-old textile conservator, but the American writer's novel is nevertheless getting an old-fashioned panning. Even Martin, a sci-fi fan, is left cold after a dip in Gibson's

The group is nothing if not thorough. Back in November, science fiction had been agreed upon as the genre for January's meeting, and the book club organiser, Jack Noe, assistant manager at Waterstone's, drew up n short list of half-a-dozen novels. December's meeting came, and the group voted that Neuromancer would be read in preparation for tonight's discussion.

With such diligence behind them, and two hours in Waterstone's ahead, the group seems to feel it would be churlish, not to mention wasting a journey, to dismiss a seminal piece of contemporary literature out of hand.

So David, a sixtysomething economist, reflects graciously on the glossary of techno terms Gibson has coined, and Alasdair, a 31year-old advertising account manager, admiss that Neuromancer's descriptive passages have their visionary moments. Ironically, it's Jack Noe who has got the least time for Gibson,

The home of the reading, or book discussion group is America. It is estimated that well over a million groups thrive in bookshops, libraries and homes across the States, offering the avid reader not just general literature but specialist material in groups that may concentrate solely, for example, on politics or mystery fiction.

Reading groups, formally at least, have yet to take a hig hold in the UK. Concerted efforts to promote them seem to centre on the north, where Bradford Libraries lead the way. As well as offering a varied programme of reading groups, they also publish a guide to finding "a good read", Opening the Book, Yet in London, when we asked various libraries, publishers and arts institutions about readers' groups they expressed regret that they had little information, concluding that "something ought to be done".

The 12 members of the Earls Court Waterstone's group all looked as though they couldn't wait to get to the meeting and let rip. "The frustration of reading a really good book is heing unable to talk to others about it hecause they baven't read it," says Alasdair.

If anything unites the group, it's this thirst for "a good read" - a desire Jack underestimated when he first established the group in the summer of 1996. "Attendance was really erratic the first year." he remembers. "The mailing list was really local, and we ended up having 15 people one month and three the next. So we readvertised in Time Out and got a big response. It's better now, because we've got people from all over Landon."

Waterstone's, by way of response, charges no membership fee, laying on nibbles and a few bottles of wine as well.

Surely, though, a discussion in a large working bookshop is a poor second to a private readers' group in the comfort of someone's home? Not according to Alasdair, who tried and failed to set up a private readers' group himself, or indeed Geraldine Kelley: "I have friends in private book clubs who said that they'd prefer to come to this." she laughs. "Home meetings tend to be a group of friends gossiping and worrying about what food they're going to prepare - they get off the real point of the meeting."

Not that there aren't digressions tonight. Gibson's jargon-littered narrative has induced group future-shock, and everyone soon tires of attempting to unravel the labyrinthine plot. Instead, the discussion ambles into related areas: definitions of cyberspace; where Gibson stands in relation to Huxley and Orwell: sci-fi's doubtful universal appeal. The exchanges are amiable, free of any self-consciousness and, from a group apparently dumhfounded by their chosen text, sustained without much recourse to Jack Noe for direction.

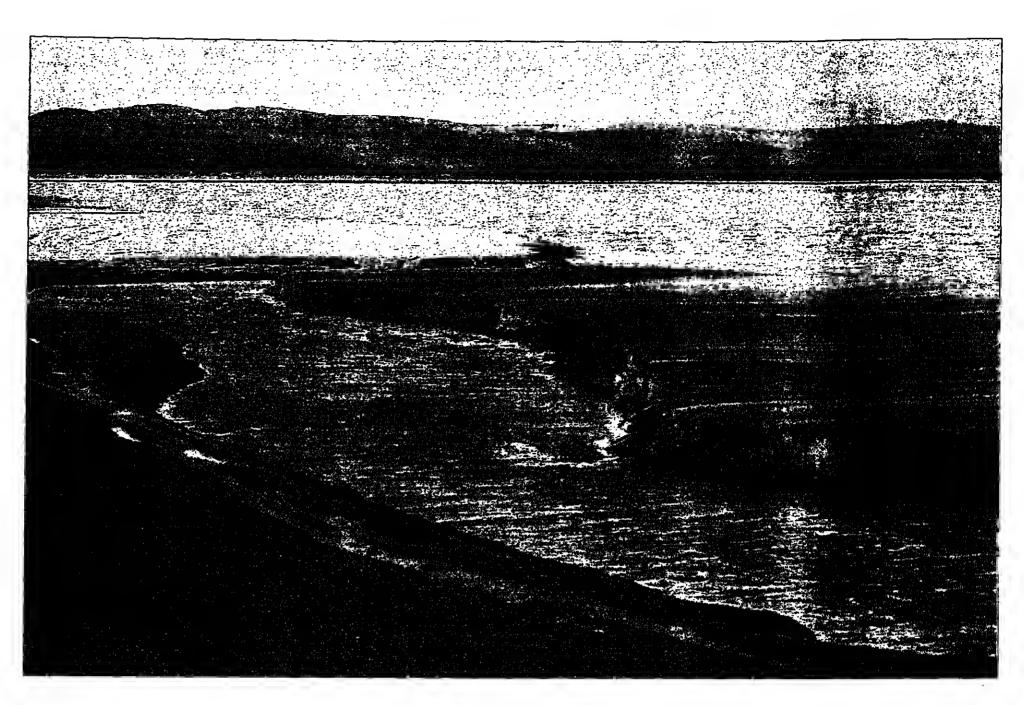
For Alasdair, though, consensus is not the point of the evening. "When everybody either hates or loves a book, then the discussion is a bit limited - Chekhov everybody loved, and tonight's book everybody hated. It's good if

there's an antagonist in the group." The healthy appetite for differences in opinion is reflected in what Jack Noe sees as the typical motivations of those attending readers' groups: to read more, and also more widely. "Usually you read what you're interested in, and you don't go outside that particular area." says Nick, a 29-year-old pianist. "But each month we have a different subject. For instance, it's Indian writing next month, something I've never read in my life. It also focuses you - you have to read the book in four weeks."

The group buys each month's selection from Jack at a 10 per cent discount - next up is Heat and Dust by Ruth Prawer Jhabvala - and he insists that the club is not really about shifting books: "It's about customer relations, because they get to know and hopefully trust my recommendations. It gives the shop a personal

Meanwhile, Fiona Woods, a 26-year-old IT assistant, typifies the enthusiasm of the group: "When you read a really good book, you almost want to broadcast the fact. Sometimes talking about it is even more enjoyable than reading it."

Waterstone's, 266 Earls Court Road, London SW5 (0171-370 1616). Robert Walters at Bradford Libraries (01274 753 666)



# Brief encounter with shifting sands



Continuing his series on great short railway journeys, Motthew Brace enjoys a nostalgic trip around Morecambe Bay on a scenic line to the Lakelands.

If Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard could see Camforth station today they would weep even more than they did when filming the famous steam scene there in Brief Encounter in 1945. The limestone walls are moss-covered and crumhling. The paint in the abandoned booking office has peeled away - in some places so badly as to reveal the original bricks under years of plaster. The only light relief is offered by the graffiti, which are touchingly innocent in their lack of swear words, "Kerry D is fit. by Phillie," reads one, written perhaps after a modern-day brief encounter between two teenagers.

The two-sided station clock looks as if it might have survived since the film was released. It hangs precariously from wires, like an over-sized wristwatch with a threadhare strap that could snap at any moment. One side told me it was 3.20, the other a minute past two. Neither was right.

From the platform you can see Steamtown, a museum that houses a fine collection of steam locomotives. It looked as though it would have been worth a visit, had I been able to find the way in.

I think I found the spot where Johnson and Howard left the station café and walked across the platform enveloped in locomotive steam. But all remnants of a café are long gone; the windows and doors have been boarded up and broken into and boarded up again, and only the leaking gutters and metal skeletons of signs creaking in the wind break the silence. It was spooky, and I was glad of some company, even if it was a gang of excitable schoolboys with ties at half-mast.

The one excellent reason for coming to this forlorn little station in north Lancashire is that

the Barrow-in-Furness trains come through here on the branch line from Preston, heading for the Lakes. The 16-mile stretch from Carnforth to the gentrified holiday resort of Grangeover-Sands follows the stunning coastline as it curves round the head of Morecambe Bay. When the track was first laid in 1867, wealthy businessmen from Lancashire and Yorkshire built elegant homes in Grange and commuted to Preston or Lancaster along this picturesque route.

Carnforth sits almost on the Irish Sea coast, Sands I found it hard to distinguish between land and sea. Mudflats that looked like the boggy limits of a nature reserve at low tide would be covered with water in a few hours. Our two-carriage the hamlet of Crag Foot we passed between small. wooded knolls and mist-wrapped villages that

Waterslack, Arnside, Middleharrow Wood, In the cold winter light the bay looked like a

sheet of steel. We crossed the estuary of the river Kent on a viaduct, I watched Holme Island. farther west along the coast towards Grange, rise up out of the sea haze like Atlantis. Just beyond the track sleepers, rivulets in the mud snaked away towards the sea. Grange station is a little way past Holme Island and a set of rocks called Seldom Seen - which need renaming, because they have heen uncovered for the last 20 years. The town and as my train pulled out north across Warton fits invitingly into a cleft below the cliffs. Looking out to sea at low tide from the platform, the shoreline seems miles away and the sand looks solid enough, but these flats are treacherous.

Before the coming of the railway, the only way train skimmed the tops of the reed beds. After to get from Morecambe to Grange was over the sands (hence the name). I learnt from an excellent guidebook, written and produced by the children might have graced any of CS Lewis's Narnia stories. Even the names sounded right - Silverdale, whereas some travellers waited for a boat at high

tide, others hraved it in a horse and carriage. A coachman would stand up high on the back of the carriage as a look-out, scouring the ground ahead for hidden channels and patches of deadly quick-sand that lurked under the surface. It may sound dangerous, but the alternative was to risk being robbed by highwaymen along the road to the north. Today there is a footpath marked on the Ordnance Survey map right across the sands. It gives a red warning to anyone thinking of going for a stroll: "Public rights of way across Morecambe Bay can be dangerous. Seek local guidance." Seeking urgent psychiatric help might be more appropriate. The mud has claimed lives in the past.

A more leisurely way of enjoying Grange is to spend a while examining the station. It is a gem. A£500,000 refurbishment has returned the Grade Il listed buildings to their former glory, and the Railway Heritage Trust recently honoured it as one of the top three stations in the country. It has survived two world wars, nationalisation and privatisation, almost unscathed. The town clerk, Frank Brooks, is proud of these achievements. "We fought a long battle to get it looking like this," he told me, as he rushed around the town hall placing name-plates for a council meeting. "Railtrack wanted to make it single-line but we said no, this is a tourist destination and you can't do that, and we won."

This is not the end of the line. You can take trains on from here to Ulverston and Barrow-in-Furness, but for thousands of tourists each year, Grange and its surrounding countryside is magic enough.

### On the footplate

When to go: open all year round (check with tourist office for sand walks)

How much: Preston to Grange-over-Sands via Carnforth day return, £6.80 adults, £3.40 for children aged five to 15.

Information: North Western trains on 0345 484950 or 0161 228 5906 (cycle information), or 0161 228 5907 (facilities for the disabled), and Grange Tourist office on 015395 34026.



At the head of Morecombe Bay: view over the River Kent (top); Arnside station (above) Photographs: Tom Pilston

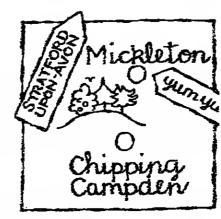


### What, when, where ...

Feeling peckish after Christmas? Go wild at the Great British Pudding Festival. held at the Three Ways House Hotel in Mickleton. Those who take their puddings really seriously can stay in the Spotted Dick and Custard bedroom (booking essential) and feast themselves at the Pudding Parade of seven puddings, including one mysteriously known as "Lord Randall".

And if you're still ambulant the following day, you can join in a Cotswold ramble to work up an appetite for the next pudding event.

The Great British Pudding Festival is held between 16 and 30 January at the Three Ways House Hotel, Mickleton, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (01386-438429). Sally Kindberg



# 14/RACING

### tin Pipe is represented by Farfadet V. successful at Vichy in August and in both outings since joining Pipe: at Uttorate and over today's trip at Plumpton. No Gimmildes sourced by 26 lengths at Market Resen in November and had the rest well beater when triding Ardronan a couple of lengths too good at Wetherby Selection: RCI/AL TOAST ASCOT HYPERION 2.55 Kurakka 1.15 Ever Blessed 3.25 Dr Leunt 1.45 Oban 3.55 NEW INN (nap) 2,20 Lord Dorcet GOING: Soft (Heavy in places on hurdles course) • Right-hand course with testing upful finish. • Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc 8) Rahway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 215 (Juncs 16-25 years, his price); Grandstand 8, Paddock 210. Sever Ping 25 GAR PARK: Not 1 2 8 3 24, rest free • LEADING TRANKERS: O Nicholson — 16 winners from 69 runners gives a success ratio of 2322%; M Pipe 13 from 57 (229%); N Nenderson 13 from 84 (165%); N Twiston Device 13 from 84 (165%). Davise 13 from 88 (148%). ● LEADING JCCKEYS: A P McCoy 24 wirs from 87 ndes gives a auccess ratio of 275% R Dunwoody 22 from 114 (193%); M A Fitzgerald 18 from 114 (156%); P Hide 9 from 68 (13.2%) ■ FAVOURITES: 127 wirs in 335 races (375%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Harbet Nouse (355). ROYAL TOAST, fourth in a Worcester bumper on his only start last term, went in on his hurding debut over two miles at Lingflekt, deteating the favourite, Articly Royal, by a langth and a half. He looks bound to progress, especially over this longer distance. Ever Blessed – beaten only a neck by the odds on Champlove (who was completing a half-trick) at Chepstow on his first appearance this year – looks a big danger. He won a bumper on the soft here two years ago and is another open to improvement. The Champleve stable of Mar-CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE, twice a course-and-distance winner, comes here in better form than any of today's rivals having completed a lour-timer when winning by five lengths at Wetherby. He can defy a 4th penalty. Celibate, who challed up a four-timer last term. WARWICK BAKKAR is an interesting newcomer – especially having joined David Nicholson. Getting a fine to his worth is not straight forward, but he was long odds on when beating Perfect Venue over 12 hurlongs at Cark in October and that horse (now with Nick Henderson) was Listed placed in Ireland and was thrown in at the deep end for he hurdes bow, firshing fifth to Waisba Sands in a Grade Two contest at Ascot last month, So Balkar will probably be a real handful for the penalised from Telliar, who acts well in the mud of the series that City of those. 3,10 Princeful (nb) 1.00 Lord Richfield 1.30 Boardroom Shuffle 3.40 With Impunity 2.05 Tom Tallor 4.10 Sursum Corda 2.35 TOTE WARWICK NATIONAL CHASE (HANDICAP) C4 2.35 Miss Diskin GOING: Soft on chase course: Heavy on hurdes track. Left-hand course. Run-in of 240 yards. Course is west of city on B4095. Buses from rail stations at Warwick (tm) and Learnington Spa (2m), ADMISSION: Club £13: fattersals £9 (eard-carrying students half-price, accompanied under-risk free); Course £5, CAR PARK: £5 in members: centre of course free. LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 27 winner from 106 runners (25,5%), D Micholson 21-100 (210%), Mrs J Priman 16-71 (22,5%), O Sherwood in 42 (26,5%). LEADING JOCKEYS: N Williameon 17 winners from 3 rides (21,5%), W Mariston 11-87 (12,6%), J R Kavanagh 9-53 (17%), A Thomton 9-62 (14,5%). FAVOURITES: 54 wits from 444 races (38,6%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lettyfuk (205). 1.00 HAMPTON HILL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m FORM GUIDE. CERIDWEN, who trotted up from the two other finishers in the Lincolnshire National at Market Rasen on Bowing Doy, was an up-and-coming staying chaser before an injury setback last season and looks worth the risk off on artractive mark. Haircham Boy has a chance if his jumping helds up, white Full Of Oats completed a a hat-trick of course when the passes on a go, including this race when he had only 9st 7to to carry Full Of Oats should go well again, despite hairing a brigger weight, and he can be forgiven his substandard effort in the Midmay/Cazarlot at Sandown last time when pured up behind Him Of Praise. Full Of Oats, who is prone to the occasional matake, had shaped well at Hay-dock previously when second to Him Of Praise. Markell Boy has nearly 30 lengths to make up on Full Of Oats compared to their numbing here two years ago, but is lightly raced. 9th better in and from the Venesa Witams stable making such a mark. Martell Boy has not run since easily defying 12st at Worcester back in June, but is a possibility to collect the second proof Boy was a dis-Mountain wegge: 193. Hor: garmap wegge. The company of the company ty. Killeshin has a good record in the Exter Chase month and Pareons Boy was a cisby Kalleshtin has a good record in the coor chase month and memoris boy was a uspipointing second favourite in that race last season when Kileshtin was that in Seven Towers. But Parsons Boy, sure to be fitter for his reappearance, looked good in his pre-Christmas outrings last season and rates a danger Jet Rules has the abity, but has not always jumped so soundly as the did when taking a novices' chase at Towester 11 months ago and his hurdles form this term leaves a question-mark. On his best form, the stamma-packed muchlover ANC Express would be a thorn in the side of these. 1.30 ROSCOE HARVEY MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 3.10 IAN WILLIAMS OWNERS GOLD CARD HANDICAP C4 HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS B) \$10,000 added 2.05 MCMAHON (CONTRACTORS SERVICES) NOVICE C4 8ETTING: 6-4 Sekker, 7-4 Tora Tuffor, 13-2 After Hours, 10-1 Luttytak, 14-1 Cobie, 16-1 Marytavy, 20-1 Golden Saddie.

NEWCASTLE

1.20 Judicious Captain

3.00 Jymism Johnny

3.30 Joe Buzz

4.00 Cittadino

GOING: Good to Soft

Left-hand, oval course; tough, galloping track.

Left-hand, oval course; tough, galloping track.

Course is on A1, 5m north of town, Metro service to Four Lane Ends station from Newcastle real station. Bus service from there, ADMISSION: Club 215; Tattersalis 210; Silver Ring f.4 (22 less in each enclosure for OAPs and registered disabled). CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveiley 39 winners from 56 runners (25%), G Richards 13-66 [197%], J H Johnson 13-13 (197%), P Cheestroogh 11-78 (141%)

LEADING JOCKETS: P Niver 40 winners from 129 rides (31%), A Dobbin 16-124 (12.9%), B Storey 15-133 [11.3%), R Gentity 13-82 (15.9%).

AVOINTES: 50 wes from 342 races (44.2%)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Jympan, Johnny (visored, 3.00).

12.50 MBNA JUVENILE HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 4YO

1.20 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS

P43.3 SILVER STICK (49) (CD) (Lord Marson) M W Esslarby 11 (2.0 P River V S-2t) LINDEN'S LOTTO (14) (Croclets Cub) G Richards 9 th 3 A Dobbin F12-4 JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN (22) (Larges R Adems) Mrs J Storey 11 th 2 Mrs C Storey FPP-53 MORTHERN SQUIRE (18) (C) (Mrs J Daverport) Judicions to 10 th E Callaghen 470-46 FRIOM LIME (28) (J P McVarus) J J O'Neil 11 10 9 P Carborry 60-755 FRINK GIN (49) (C) (Mrs Margare Francis M Hammond 11 10 9 P Carborry 2-202 F GEMS LAD (22) (BF) (Mrs. J Wood) Mrs. S Smith 11 10 8 R Guest (J-5-3) PETER (22) (D W Whiters) D Whiters 10 10 4 B Storey 6-3-30 PINK GUNNER (54) A G Chappell M Hermond 10 10 0 G Storey 04-565 HEAVENLY CITIZEN (18) J L Gerdson J Gedson 10 10 0 G C McCompanis (5) 305-83 D'ARBLAY STREET (14) (Green For Luck) W Kemp 9 10 0 F Leshy (5) 8 F2-17-4 ANOTHER VENTURE (22) (The Northern Boys) F Nurphy 8 10 0 R McCombi (5) 5-30-71 MAJORITY MAJOR (37) (C) (John R Jones) F Oreasbraugh 9 10 0 A S Smith

- 13 declared 
Athernum weight: 10st. True handicap weight Heavenly Citizen Sci 12b, D'Arblay Sweet 9s; 10b, Anchre Verture 9s; 7b, Majority Major 9s; 3b,
BETTING: S-2 Linden's Lotto, 11-4 Justicious Captain, 13-2 Geme Lad, 7-1 Petes, 15-2 D'Arblay
Street, 18-1 Northern Squire, 12-1 Silver Stick, 14-1 Majority Mejor, Pime Gurnes, 18-1 others

1.50 WADDINGTON JAYCARE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m

D) £5.000 edded 3m 6f

12.50 The In-Laws

2.25 Classic Eagle

1.50 Mr Christie

GOING: Good to Sat

	Aut	u wan a	coope of leading too door at membrok acceptor; bother rough
	1	.45	MAR LODGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 8) £12,000 2m 3f 110yds Penelty Valus £8,216
	1	-3119U	SUPER TACTICS (21) (D) (BF) (H V Parry) R Ainer 10 11 10 A Thornton
_			Gream, gold seen and armiets, gold and white hooped cop
	2	31P0-P	GOLDEN SPINNER (91) (D) (Sr Peler Niller) N Henderson 11 11 2 M A Pitzgerald Mercon, black cross-bels, hoosed sleeves, austreral data
6),	3	211-4P	TERAO (63) (D) (B A Kilpatrox) M Pipe 12 10 3 . 2nd preference
eli	۰	F11-41	Emersid green, scarlet hooped sierves and cap
ee.	4	3-P002	KADI (GER) (21) (D) (J E Brown) 0 Nicholson 9 to to
ra-	_		Yellow, black star, black and yellow hooped sleeves, red cap
ON-	5	1/112-	OBAN (200) (D) (Lord Hartington) Mass H Knight 8 108
%, ~)	б	2023-3	SUPER COSH (217) (George Brackes) R Lee 10 10 0
		7 10 100	- 6 declared -
=			ptr 10st. True handicap weight: Super Com 9st 3tb. I Super Teptics, 2-1 Oban, 7-2 Kadi, 8-1 tereo, 18-1 Golden Spinner, Super Coin
1			FORM GUIDE
_			te at his fences, SUPER 7ACTICS unseated three fences out when the mar-
WET			ir Edredon Bleus race at Nempton, holding every chance at the time. He was here in November and at Newbury before that and third to Celibate and Lord
Sey .			on his penultimate start. The runner-up to Edredon Bleu at Kempton was
~,			n half a length, and there would have been title between him and the sa-
y <b>y</b> r			the latter got round. Kadi has not won since the Mildmay of Plate at the 1995
			Festival but is 26 better in with Super Tactics than at Kampton, so he should
aid	go	CIOSE U	tern landed the first two of three starts in 1996-97, finishing runner-up behind To at Kempton in February in the other He has not raced since but should
yer			enough coming from Hennetta Knight's yard. Super Coin has not been out
(3)			to Stately Home at Market Resen in June. Selection: SUPER TACTICS
	10	20	VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE (GROUP RRC1)
Coy	4	20	2) (CLASS A) £40,000 2m Pen Value £25,945
lyn	1	1FF-2F	MULLIGAN (42) (D) (Lady Harris) O Nicholson 8 ti 10
octy	2	213-33	DR ROYAL (FR) (42) (D) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 7 TI B A P McCoy B
	_		Royal blue, emerald green sleaves, when cap, emerald green spots
ton	3	-15451	CELIBATE (28) (CD) (Stambord Bridge Pship) C Mann 7 10 13 (4e) M A Pizzperald Grey and orange (quartered), orange pleases, dark blue cap
and.	4	121-P2	JEFFELL (41) (D) (T Balley) A L Moorel 10 11
	_		Dark blue and pink diamonds, pink chevrons on aleaves, quenered cap
ide	5	33-2M	LECTARD (28) (CD) (SF) (Mrs P A H Harriey) Miss V Williams 11 109 . N Williamson Dark green and yellow (outstand), alroad stewns
(5)	6		ARCTIC KINSMAN (35) (D BF) (Mrs R Hambro) N Tueston-Daines 10 109C Liewellyn
	_		in and emergid green diamonds, dark blue sleaves, emergid green armiess and cap
igh	7	624-22	LORD DORCET (21) (CD) (J Hogg) J Charlion 6 10 7
(7)	8	-61111	CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (22) (CD) (Cumbrian Ind) 7 Easterby 9 10 7 (4mg L Wyse
	9	3-3(3)	Royal blue, yellow see; white steemes, royal blue cap, yellow ster NATIVE MISSION (21) (D) (G E Shouler) J FizzGerald 11 10 8
da,	•	5550	Anyel blue, whee Cross of Lonaire, white cap
	BE	TING: 9-	Collibate, Or Royal, 5-1 Lord Dorcet, 8-1 Arctic Knemen, Jeffell, 13-2 McRigen, 7-1
	-		-W A & Lasterd on a Mathewalling and Market

FORM OUIDE

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

- 15 declared Minmun: 10st. True handicap weight: Sigme Wheless Set 11th, Twin States 9st 3fth, Methoglord Rot 30 BETTING: 9-2 Couble Agent, 11-2 Andrins, 13-2 Lough Tuth, 7-1 Hit The Cenves, trivest Wisely, 8-1 Unisatives, 9-1 Delly Boy, 10-1 Declamanter, Mr Chrisde, 12-1 covers

2.25 HENNESSY COGNAC SPECIAL NOVICE HURDLE SKY (CLASS B) £8,000 added 2m

11 00.6 QUEENS BRIGADE (18) (No. FT Wabor) F Wabor) 6 11.5 B Storey

BETTING: 3-1 Ledgendry Lina, 100-30 Classife Bagle, 7-2 Plying North, 11-2 Alpine Parither, 6-1
Bold Galt, 12-1 Northern Motto, 25-1 Falson's Irisage, Jacques The Lad, 33-1 others

FORM GUIDE

It was on this track that Bold Galt landed a famous Flat win, under top weight in the 1985

Northumberland Plata, Considering the long lay-off and the testing ground, perhaps Bold

Galt didn't do bedly on his hundring debut at Uttorafer, even if he was a long way off the

winner, Potar Prospect. Bold Galt can improve and must be respected bearing in mind

the class he showed on the level, but he's in a tricky little contest here, with three Mary

Reveley winners imng up alongsade Classife Eagle, who torted up at Cottenct, Ledgendry

Line has already proved himself useful, finshing second to French Holly at Am before

bearing Causter at Netso, and yet Peter Niven rides ALPINE PANTMER instead. On the

Fatt, Alpine Parither was a madern and a bit disapportung, ending up nowhere near as

Flat, Alpine Partition was a madern and a bit desapportung, ending up nowhere near as good as Bold Gart, Ledgendry Line or Classic Eagle (Tyring too high when fifth in Shaamri's Bellection: ALPINE FIANTHER

3.00 DIPPER NOVICE CHASE (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) SKY

SINS GREEN GREEN DESERT DS (Darren C Mercer) O Sherwood 7 th 9 JA McCerthy
O 32th Jimuna JORANY (16) (D) (Palet Recycling Services J J O'Neil 9 th 5 P Neven V
3 9821P4 MASTER BAVARD (14) (Alon W Methiel P Morrecht to 1t 5 A Dobbin
A 5-thill PENTLANDS FLYER (22) (D) (Na's M W Brd.) If Morrecht to 1t 5 P Griberty
- 123tz RACHAEL'S OWEN (15) (D) (Devitor Racing Catal J Gode 8 th 5 R McGrath
8 3P-19 SOLSGETTH (15) (D) (Nameston Parmers) I Barday 7 th 5 R Supple
9 00-P STINGING BEE (25) (W G Reed) W Reed 7 th 5 T Reed
8 (2-352 TRUE SCOT 22) (J A Sepherson) P Cheesthough 8 th 5 A S Smith
9 1451-1 CELESTIAL CHOIR (18) (CD) (Nat Carole Sylves) J L Syre 8 th 0 Shorey
- 9 declared BETTING: 9-4 Green Green Desert, 3-1 Pentlands Flyer, 7-2 Celestial Choir, 4-1 Jymjam Johnny.
18-1 Rachael's Owen, 20-1 True Scot, 25-1 Master Bavard, Solsgirth, 65-1 Stinging Bee.
FORM GUIDE
Pentlands Flyer has taken manor events at Carleso and Kelso and he can probably keep
up too strong a gallop for most of these Two that could be bricky to shake cit, nowever,
are Green Green Desert and CELESTIAL CHOIR, Green Green Desert went well at
Doncaster last month for Paul Carberry (back on Pentlands Flyer today) and his narrow
with from Monnate Forte looks sound with Monnate Forte looks

(CLASS B) £8,000 BODGED 2771

ALPINE PANTHER (S3) (CD) (F D South Was M Reveloy 5 11 5 ... P Moven 4 BOLD (ART (28) (SF) (Was I Prides) J Farshave 7 11 5 ... P Guest 0 CLASSIC EAGLE (17) (D) (Classic Boodsock Pc) May D Mane 5 11 5 ... A Dobbin DISTRICT (1997) (G Whitehead S Mais L Williams J A Whitehad 5 11 5 ... A S Smith 4552; PALCON'S IMAGE (USA) (725) (T R Prylet J Justimon 7 11 5 ... E Callaghen 27 FLYING NORTH (64) (D) (Dr Gyn Mereddin (Ms M Reveley 5 11 5 ... O Lee 0 COOR RIDLAN VICEROY (10) (JI R Turnet) J Turnet 5 11 5 ... R Supplies 1 JACQUES THE LAD (Laines R Adarts) May J Storry 6 11 5 ... A Kr C Storry 2 LEDESDRY (UBE (47) (D) (Norther Paterson) J Golde 5 11 5 ... R MeGrath U-22 NORTHERN MOTTO (19) (BF) (Winter Paterson) J Golde 5 11 5 ... R MeGrath 0 COLEENS BRIGADE (18) (Ms F 1 Webur) F Webton 6 11 5 ... B Storry -11 declared -... 11 declared -..

2m 4f 110yds

2.55   DURHAM RANGER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) 25   added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,729   1					
### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ##	ediey	2	EE	<b>DURHAM RANGER NOVICE HURDLE (CLAS</b>	S D) 25,
### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ##		-	55	added 2m 110vds Penalty Value £3,729	
2 1-163 GATFLAX (13) (D) (Sies Ceirig) N Trainton-Devices 8 11 8	250(1	-	420.3	BALLAD MINSTREE (95) FOLIS E Section LET Control & 11 &	L1
2   Charactor (Sp.) (in )   Lorest )   Resident 6		;	1.163	GATELAY (19) (Th) (Table Clarke) N Twisters Davies 9 11 9	CL
2		1	1040	CENT E TIME CASE ON ALL I brown I D Root 9 th &	-10
5 31/50 LASTO ADREE (52) (D) (Ass J Newel) G Thome 7 to 8 MA File 6   5 PERFECT VENUE (28) (Astro Pertnemby) N Honderson 5 to 8 MA File 7   5 PERFECT VENUE (28) (Astro Pertnemby) N Honderson 5 to 8 MA File 7   5 PERFECT VENUE (28) (Astro J Cours Jones) Mrs M Jones 8 to 8 MA File 7   5 PERFECT VENUE (28) (D) (Astro J March 1   5 PERFECT VENUE (28) (D) (Astro J March 1   5 PERFECT VENUE (43) (D) (Astro J March 1   5 PERFECT VENUE (43) (D) (Mrs 8 Hardrand) R O'Sulfiven 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (D) (Mrs 8 Hardrand) R O'Sulfiven 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (D) (Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 5 to 8 M WHI 1   6 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 6 C List) N Smith 6 M M R P   7 PERFECT VENUE (43) (Astro J Mrs 7 M R		7	41	MIDAKKA ISS RED HE COMPANY I CHIEF S TI S	D
Second Service (18) (Astron Partnership) In Horderson 5 Til 8	in.	5	3460	1 ASTO ADDRES (SZ), (The Olice & Name) G Thomas 7 tl 8	AThre
7 5 ROYAL SHREWSKIR'Y (70) (Louis Lones) Mrs M Lones 8 11 8		-	5	DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY S. T. S.	MA FROM
9 3.25 SMONEY TWOTHOUSAND (AZ (SSS) (A H Wast) MES H Kinght 8 11 6 G. E.	mar-		5	SCHOOL SHEEMSERY (70) (Louis Joseph Mrs M. Jones S 11 S	DB
9 3.25 SMONEY TWOTHOUSAND (AZ (SSS) (A H Wast) MES H Kinght 8 11 6 G. E.	was		0000	SAFE TO ASSUME ON IR Represent R Provening 7 11 6	R Masse
2 SYCNEY TWOTHOUSAND (NZ) (SSS) (A M Watt) Miss M Kinght 8 11 6	Lord		12.20	SMACHES CASTI F 44th ATT Alex & Marriage B O'S From 5 th 9	N William
PETTING: 7-2 Kurzikia, 4-1 Sydney Teophousand, 9-2 Balled Minutral, 8-1 Gettles, 7-1 Perfect Production of the Committee of t			2.	EVENEY THE THE PART AND THE PART AS HE WAS A SEA HE WINDS R. H. F.	G G
12   BETTING: 7-2 kurzabta, 4-1 Sydney Twofhousand, 9-2 Balled Minuted, 8-1 Gartiso, 7-1 Particol Simons Castle, 14-1 Royal Shreinshury, 16-1 others   Simons Castle, 14-1 Royal Shreinshury,			nē.	TARAKHEL AISAL MER RAIG CLICA N Smith 5 11 A	LI Ste
12   BETTING: 7-2 kurzabta, 4-1 Sydney Twofhousand, 9-2 Balled Minuted, 8-1 Gartiso, 7-1 Particol Simons Castle, 14-1 Royal Shreinshury, 16-1 others   Simons Castle, 14-1 Royal Shreinshury,	1995		•	TALIFAN BOY (FSC) (Septemble Team) G Besting 5 tt 8	
### SETTING: 7-2 Kurabka, 4-1 Sydney Terofhousand, 9-2 Balled Minatrel, 8-1 Gartins, 7-1 Perfect Simons Castle, 14-1 Reyal Shraneshury, 16-1 others    3.25	hould	_		_ 12 deciseed _	
Switched Castle, 14-1 Royal Shriffinature, 16-1 others	ehnd	BET	TING: 7-2	Kernitia, 4-1 Sydney Teathorsand, 9-2 Balled Mineral, 8-1 Gattley,	7-1 Perfect Vi
3.25   PETER RIDSS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 at 110 to 3 m 110 yds Pensity Value £8,266   1 1-5 to 110 yds Pensity Value £10 yds Pensity Na Redesen 7 ti 11	hould	Sim	one Cast	e. 14-1 Royal Shrevesbury, 16-1 others	
1 1-51-H WAYWARD KINS (22) (D) (Feldstorrig Racrot) R Hodges 8 120	n out				
1 1-51-H WAYWARD KINS (22) (D) (Feldstorrig Racrot) R Hodges 8 120	TICS	12	OF	PETER RDSS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) \$12	2.000 add
1 1-51-H WAYWARD KINS (22) (D) (Feldstorrig Racrot) R Hodges 8 120	_	ျပ	.25	3m 110vds Penalty Value £8,286	
2 50-21 DR LEART (21) (Fleer Energy P Hobbs 7 II 11	11	τ-	1.618	WAYWARD KING DO ON Goldson Borns R Holms 8 120	T Deace
31.4-3 ACT OF FAITH (59) (C) (D) (Mrs R W S Balset N Geselee 8 117	•	,	50.51	DR 1 R MT (21) (Reter Ement P Hebbs 7 11 11	_ R Ourse
31.4-3 ACT OF FAITH (59) (C) (D) (Mrs R W S Balset N Geselee 8 117	mean.	ì	533-21	HOODED HAWK (298 (DLIC M Harrier) N Henderson 7 11 11	M A Fitzon
Soy   B   So   ELAZING BATMAN (287) (W )   Fernication of Mrs R   Renderson 5 to 9   Detailed		_	31,4-3	ACT OF FATTH (59) (C) (Th (Mrs R W S Baker) N Gaselee 8 11 7	C LION
Service	Coy E	5	50-	BLAZING BATMAN (297) (W J Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 5 10 9	D8
3.55   TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLAS: 15.500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £10,163				- 5 deciared -	
1 40094 BLOWANE WIND (FR) (ab) (F A Desh) M Poe 5 2 0 1 Mer 1 A P P Seeby 3 464-2 CADOLIGOLO (FR) (85) (D) OA Abrison M Poe 7 2 0 A P P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Madosan) D Nichoson 5 11 4 Mer 1 M	eraid	BET	TING: 5-4	Dr Leurd, 5-2 Wayward King, 5-1 Act Of Feith, Hooded Hawk, 33-1	Blazing Ba
1 40094 BLOWANE WIND (FR) (ab) (F A Desh) M Poe 5 2 0 1 Mer 1 A P P Seeby 3 464-2 CADOLIGOLO (FR) (85) (D) OA Abrison M Poe 7 2 0 A P P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Madosan) D Nichoson 5 11 4 Mer 1 M		100		TEAL AND ODEEN HANDICAD HIDDIE	ICI ASS
1 40094 BLOWANE WIND (FR) (ab) (F A Desh) M Poe 5 2 0 1 Mer 1 A P P Seeby 3 464-2 CADOLIGOLO (FR) (85) (D) OA Abrison M Poe 7 2 0 A P P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Madosan) D Nichoson 5 11 4 Mer 1 M	- Tyu	-13	.551	TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP NONDEE	162
1 40094 BLOWANE WIND (FR) (ab) (F A Desh) M Poe 5 2 0 1 Mer 1 A P P Seeby 3 464-2 CADOLIGOLO (FR) (85) (D) OA Abrison M Poe 7 2 0 A P P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (John Duogani N Tiveton-Daves 6 11 2 C U M P Seeby 3 09-250 MISTINGLIET (25) (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (John Wilson) N Herderson 10 1 9 Mis A Riz M Seeby 3 (CD) (D) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Madosan) D Nichoson 5 11 4 Mer 1 M		Ľ		£15,000 added 2m 110yds Penaity value £10	3,103
103-250 MISTINGELETT (25) (CD) (John Duggari) N Invision-Davies 6 in 12		1	-40024	BLOWING WIND (FR) (28) IF A Death M Proc 5 12 0	AF
March   Marc	ndivo	2	444-2	CADOUGOLD (FFQ (62) (D) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 7 12 D	
Wyse   7 10FERA (FR) (29) (D) (Shekhi Ahmed Al Madosan) D Nicholson's 11 4		3	03-250	MESTINGUETI (35) (CD) (CD) LIGHT DUGGET N IMMERN DEMES 6 TI 2	
Wyse   7 10FERA (FR) (29) (D) (Shekhi Ahmed Al Madosan) D Nicholson's 11 4	roody	:	1112-1	PATRIA DOWNER (20) (U) (MOS TI MASTE) AND TI MASTE ( 1) Manual Control of C	MARRO
7 105/2 WARN SPELL (F189) (D) (BF) (X Higson) G L Misone 6 11 4			ME E	SAFER BUT (30) (4) (4) (4) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1	A R. India
### 6 #1-0 BELLATOR (45) (II) (F Richardson) G Belding 5 #1 0	Wyer		****	THE DAY COLD I WASHING THE WAS	A Dane
9 -251 MEW ANN (22) (C) (an K I Stewart 5 Golfings 7 to 11		•	44.0	BET I ATOR MED (III) IP Reportern) G Raiding 5 TI ()	B
11 1832 RUBHAHUNSH (649) (U) (Lore Star Record Perforshop J Bennett 7 10 4	mion		-3.50	NEW NN (22) (0) (len K   Stewart) 5 Gollings 7 10 11	HET 5 (2010)
11 183/ RUBHAHUNSH (649) (D) (Lone Star Record Pertnersho) J Bennett 7 10 4			1142	BLESS ME SESTEN (AND (U) (BF) (A J 2 PREFER) H HONG 3 TV 4	
2 set-22 RIPAREUS (USA) (25) (D) (BP) Mas David Backburn) P Webber 7 10 0			183	RUBHAHUNISH (64th) (D) (Lone Star Recing Pertnersho) J Bennett 7	10 4L He
13 6-F332 HAPBET HOUSE (17) (D) (C A Washbourd) R O'Sulven 5 10 D N Wilmington	n, 7-1	2	141-22	RUPARIUS (USA) (25) (D) (BF) Mrs David Blackburn) P Webber 7 10 0	
		13	6-7332	HAPEET HOUSE (17) (D) (C A Washbourd) R O'Sulven 5 to D	Witnington

was our of the frame in his three races after going in at Kampton in October on his return. But he bounced beck to his best to land the Frogmore Chase here four weeks ago,
for which he also gets a 4th penalty. He should confirm that form with Lord Dornet (strlength second and leter runner up behind Viking Flagship at Wetherby) and Lootard (eight
lengths back in fourth), who are both 4th better in. Or Royall finished its lengths clear of
Celibate when they were third and firth to Ask Tom in the Tingle Creek at Sendown, where
Multigan was in third and looking held when he was distracted and fell two out. Celibate
can prove the pick of the trio who consisted the Sandown prize. Multigan, who would
most Rely have landed the Antie Tinghty (won by Or Royal) and the Maghull Novices'
Chase at Aintree last season except for topping over, imped well when besten five langths
by Viking Flagship in the Heldon Gold Cup at Easter on his return. Jeffel, reching for the
first time since defeating Celibate (2th worse in) by a langth and a helf at Punchestown
in April - failed to show his best and was pulsed up in the race won by Simply Deshing
bere in November, Or Royal a good third. He did much better next time when chasing
home Dorans Pride at Farryhouse.

Selection: CUMBERAN CHALLENGE

		ns Price at Faryhouse. Selection: CUMBRAN CHALLENGE
2	.55	DURHAM RANGER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,729
1	420-3	BALLAD MINSTREI, (35) (D) (G E Stouler) J FitzGerald 6 11 6
2	1-163	GATFLAX (18) (D) (Glea Clarke) N Twiston-Davies 8 11 8
3	10/77	GENTLE TUNE (338) (D) (H J Jarves) J R Best 8 11 6 J Cullety
4	2	KURAKKA (56) (Ars M C Sweetey) J GHord 5 11 6 PHINE
5		LASTO ADREE (52) (D) (Mass J Navel) G Thomer 7 11 8A Thomson
6		PERFECT VENUE (26) (Martin Partnership) N Handerson 5 11 8
7	5	ROYAL SHREWSBURY (70) (Louis Jones) Mrs M Jones 8 11 8
8	0066	SAFE TO ASSUME (18) (R Brazington) R Brazington 7 ft 6. R Mossey (3)
9	13-20	SMONS CASTLE (43) (D) (Mrs 8 Marchard R O'Suliver 5 11 8
Ď	2.	SYDNEY THOTHOUSAND (NZ) (SSS) (M H Wall) Mess H Kright 8 11 6
π	oē.	TARAXCHEL (USA) (450) (Mrs G C List) N Smith 5 TI B
2		TAUFAN BOY (FSZ) (Supreme Teart) (I Balding 5 11 8
BET	TNG: 7-2	Karatica, 4-1 Sydney Teofficesand, 9-2 Balled Miratral, 8-1 Gattlex, 7-1 Perfect Venue,
-		44 4 M 1 M 1

Ľ	5.20	3m 110yds Penalty Value £8,286
1	1-50-41	WAYWARD KING (22) (D) (Feldspring Racing) R Hodges 8 12 0
2	50-121	DR LEURCT (21) (Peter Emery) P Hobbs 7 11 11
3	533-21	HOODED HAWK (29) (0) (C M Harrer) N Henderson 7 ti 11
4	31,4-3	ACT OF FAITH (SS) (C) (D) (Mrs R W S Baker) N Geodice B 11 7 C Lievallyn
5	50-	BLAZING BATMAN (297) (W J Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 5 10 9
8	TTING: 5	6 Dr Leurd, 5-2 Waywerd King, 5-1 Act Of Falth, Hooded Hawk, 33-1 Blazing Balmen
F	2 55	TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B)
Ŀ	3.55	TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £10,163
1	-40024	BLOWING WIND (FR) (28) IF A Desti M Pipe 5 12 D
2	414-2	CADOUGOLD (FR) (62) (D) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 7 12 D A P McCoy
3	03-250	MESTINGLIETT (35) (CD) Light Duggeri) N Twiston-Device 6 Ti 12
4	/112-1	RED BLAZER (28) (I) (Mass H Knight) Mass H Knight 7 11 12
5	6414-2	BARNA BOY (36) (C) (D) (Lyrn Wilson) N Henderson 10 11 9
6	14F-5	1 OPERA (FR) (28) (C) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktouris D Nicholson 5 Ti 4 Fi Johnson
7	105/2	WARM SPELL (F168) (C) (SP) (K Higson) C L Moore 6 11 4
6	T1-0	BELLATOR (42) (II) (P Richardson) G Balding 5 11 0
9	-2250	NEW NW (22) (D) (len K   Stewart) 5 Golfrigs 7 to 11 Mr S Durack (5)
10	THE	PLESS ME SISTER MAIN (D) (BF) (A.1.5 Palmert R Rose 9 10 4
11	183/	RUBHAHUNSH (649) (D) (Lone Star Recorg Permerstra) J Bennett 7 to 4L. Hervey
7	141.22	RUPARUS ASSALOSS (C) (C) (RF) NAS David Backbarn) P Webber 7 10 0

— 14 december —

— 14 december —

Minimum: 10st. True rendicap wengles: Rigarius 8st 13th, Harber House 9st 10th, Hipper Read 9st 8th. 18ETTING: 11-2 Belletin; 8-1 Barna Boy, Red Blazair, 8-1 Cadougold, L'Opera, New Inn., 18-1 Missinguett, 12-1 Rigarius, Warm Spell, 18-1 Mipper Read, 20-1 others

_	_	
	3	DrS-3 WINN'S PRIDE (25) (D) (Nrs W L Balley) R Holimphead 7 10 0S Wymne
	28	4030- GIVE BEST (\$12) LI P McMarus   J.J DNeil 7 10 0
	_	- 26 declared -
	LEW	mum weight: 10st. True hendicap weight: Hade Dennig Bol 12th, Ela Agepi Mou 9st 10th, Netive Field
	9077	To, Beggara Barrouet Set 3th, Undrichtie Boxer Set 2th, Noble Lord Set, Chebrol & Ardrico Bet 13th,
	Cini	Resign But 12th Mischer Fox Planers Ret 11th Mischer Society & Ben Cruschen Bet 10th, Arctic Tri-

Carries on the 720, remore for Payers as 110, warrer screen a sen College and College and

FORM OUIDE

The has a frightening look, but several are outside the handicap proper and PRINCE-FUL, relatively unexposed over this type of trp, should be in the thick of the finish. The form of his Cheltenham win 18 days ago could be a shade suspect, but he earned top marks for style and he rain on stouth when fourth to Mator James in the competitive William Hill Handicap Hundle at Sandows [2m] the time before. Lord Jim wins a classy Flat stayer and his hat-rick of wins over timber suggests he will be a force of a nice weight in this handicap Splendid Thyrie did not enjoy the gluey conditions under 12st at Townsetor first time up, but has blossomed since and his acti-ground form test season was good notably a nine-length deleat of Chaton at Newbury Unstrikable Boxer has a bit in do at these weights, but is probably allead of the assessor in conventional joints, despite being a nine-year-old, Lightly-raced, he was highly regarded as a novice when trained by Nick Walker.

3	.40	EDWARD COURAGE CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS B) £10,500 added 2m 4f 110yds	l
_			ı
	211-4P	TERAD (63) (D) (B A Kilpetrick) M Pipe 12 Ti Ti	ł
		KADI (GERI) (21) (D) (J E Brown) D Higholson 9 11 9	ł
	37开度	JIBBER THE KIBBER (21) (CD)   History Mrs J Petron 9 11 4 D Looky	ł
	50-101	DR LEURT (21) (Press Emery) P Hobbs 7 10 12	ł
		LANCE APPLISTRONG (277) (D) (G L Poner) G McCourt 8 10 10 W Marston	l
	23-100	WITH IMPUNITY (21) (D) IG Z March P Nichols 9 to 7 TJ Marphy	ı
	P3/34	CLARE MAN (16) (D) (M P Wareing) N Twiston-Davies 10 D 1	ı
	44245	ALLO GEORGE (2021) (Lave Midical Systems) A Newcombe 12 D D P Holley	ı
	1-112	MANOR MEO (21)(D)(BF) (G Processous) G Processous (2 10.0 Michael Breman (5) V - 9 declared -	

JIBBER THE KIBBER looked a good prospect when the 16-1 warver of a Wincanton novces hurdle three years ago and won Chepatow's Total Siver Trophy in 1995. He has had mixed fortunes over fances, but is potentially before than this handleap mark and he shaped was enough until blundering three out on his comeback race behand Shring ught at Leicester With Dr Leurit and Kadi set to run at Ascot, Clare Main could threaten. He stays well and his Leicester was was boosted when runnerup Cathy Hang won afferwards. Also George loves the mud (and Newton Abbot), while Lance Americans, with a good win ratio, can progress further.

Δ	10	LEASOWES MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 4f 110yds
_		2m 4f 110yds
1	6	ANNINAROVAN (DZ) (C G H Syndicate) 7 Casey 6 ft 7
•		BENNA BEOLA (Mrs Eva Bis) J Upson 6 11 7
3	323-66	BOLD LEAP (5) (Two Generators Pertnershot) P R Webber 6 tt 7Mr A Sansonne
	2.02	GOOD LORD MURPHY (47) (The Country Side) P Hobbs 6 11 7 G Torring
•	PPP 5'	KENALAN LAD (543) (D) (Old Crown Partners) Mrs V Ward 6 11 7 J.Bichitel Brennen (S)
5	U	LITERARY SPARK (45) (F 5 Jackson) F Jackson 10 11 7
7		MARKET SPRINGER (30) (G W Pylant) J L Harts 7 ft 7 J R Kavaregh
3		MAZILEO (22) (Mrs H Parrott) I Williams 5 11 7 E Husband (3)
9	50-P	MONSIEUR PINK (185) IS W Trubsham) A Streeter 6 IT 7.
0	00-0	NOFMANDY DUNCE (NZ) (22) (Mrs.) Coles) C Marti 6 ft 7 J Magoe (3)
П		NOT REALLY (Lacky Eliza Mays-Smith) Lacty E Mays-Smith 7 11 7 Mr R Waldey (5)
2		SHAFRAKANNOI (FR) (21) (S Clough) J King 6 11 7
3		SKRAABIT (16) (Direct C Bisbury) C Brooks 7 11 7
и	0.000	SOMPLISA (B1) (R Owen) P Bowen 6 Tl 7 L Curamins (5)
5	2-342	SURSUM CORDA (18) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forsier 7 ft 7
5		SWEET PERRY (236) (Monday Cub Partnership)   Williams 7 11 7
7	66-45	WISLEY WARRIOR (22) (Wisley Golf Partnership) N Twiston-Davies 7 ft 7 C Maude
В		GOLDEN MILLERSUM (Ggmt Racing Club) R Lie 6 tl 2 G Hogen (5)
19	21-443	KINNAHALLA (ZZ) (Roger J Spencer) G Balding 6 to 2 S Fex
30	8-	PRIDE DF PENNICER (248) IC F Caple) A Newcombe 5 11 2
7	Œ.	THUNDERERD (253) (The Trundertard Partnershot A H Harvey 6 11 2 M Richards
2	6	VALLIS VALE (26) (Septen Andrews) J King 6 ft 2
Z)		ABOO HOM (P94) (Katterios: Pic) M. Pipe 4 106 Mr G EMINU (5)
26		RAINBOW STAR (FR) (10) (Arthur White) M Pipe 4 10 8
SET 7	TNG: 11	<ul> <li>Sursum Cords, 13-2 Sharinkannoli, 8-1 Good Lord Murohy, 10-1 Wisley Warrior.</li> </ul>

18	00-3	GOLDEN MILLENSUM (Gorne Racing Cub) R Lie 6 11 2
19	21-443	KINNUAHALLA (ZZ) (Floger J Spencer) G Balding 6 to 2 S Fox
30	8-	PRIDE DF PENNIKER (248) IC F Caple) A Newcombe 5 11 2
21	TP.	THURDERERD (253) (The Trunderbed Partnershot A H Harvey 6 11 2 M Flichards
22	6	VALLIS VALE (26) (Stephen Andrews) J King 6 ft 2 T Jonks
23	_	ABOO HOM (PM) (Karrence Pic) M Pipe 4 106 Mr G Elliott (5)
St	35622	RAINBOW STAR (FR) (16) (Arthur Witte) M Pipe 4 10 8
BET	TING: 11	-2 Sursum Cords, 13-2 Shariakanndi, 8-1 Good Lord Murphy, 18-1 Wisley Warrior,
	uhalta, 1 others	2-1 Rainbow Star. 14-1 Mazileo, Not Really, Skimabit, Pride of Penniker, Valle,
time	s mean	emate Him Of Praise, and he's the one to best even if his quirky nature some- s he can disappoint. Celestal Choir ran out an easy winner first time over triske, attitough with numer-up Burnt Imp camping a double ponality she was
gett	וחטו פחו	urse, amough was runner-up but in the carrying a could be periodly and was os of weight from the lavourita. Still, the mare could do more than win well a larne when Les Eyres stable was rather quiet. A winner on the Plat blus a
		cap hurdler (beat Tumpole here last February) Celestral Choir is a tough mare
Ow		um out prefty smart over lences, too. Pick of the others may be Rachael's Selection: CELESTIAL CHOIR

3.30 SHOVELER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

PERKS OF THE JOB (Ms; A. J. Micketh | F. Murtagh B. 11 4.

SHAY GAZ PM H Meating Ms J. Story 5: 11 4.

SMUFF BOX (19) (C. J. Cockson) B. Medanggan 5: 11 4.

SMUFF BOX (19) (C. J. Cockson) B. Medanggan 5: 11 4.

SMUTHYME SPECIAL (28) (J. M. Crothor) L. Lango 6: 11 4.

SMUTHYME SPECIAL (28) (J. M. Crothor) L. Lango 6: 11 4.

SMUTHYME SPECIAL (28) (J. M. Crothor) L. Lango 6: 11 4.

WELLSWOOD (19) (R. G. Marsholl 5: Mr. 0. G. Sasaki) J. Jetterson 5: 11 4.

SMUTHYME SPECIAL (10) (Mirs. M. B. Scroley) Mrs. M. Reveley 5: 11 4.

CALL THE TUNKE (R. McDorald) R. McDorald 6: 10: 13.

DARK SALL/ (R. Crambertan) N. Chambertan 5: 10: 13.

DPADOR (0. J. Sendishurst) 0: Swindishurst 6: 10: 13.

Mr. O. S.

SMUTHYME J. G. Graftent) M. Barnes 5: 10: 10: 13.

SMUTHYME J. G. Graftent) M. Barnes 5: 10: 13.

C. March. S. M. S. March. M. Brann 5: 10: 13.

C. March. S. M. S. March. M. Brann 5: 10: 13.

C. March. S. M. S. March. M. Brann 5: 10: 13.

C. March. S. M. S. March. M. Brann 5: 10: 13.

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C. March. S. M. S. M. S. M. S. M. S. M. Brann 5: 10: 13.

C. March. S. M. S. M.

MELIN WIND U.G. Gretom) M. Barnes 5 to 0
5. JUST HUSH (14) (G.R.S. Nistri) R. Nacon 5 to 13...
LADY FOR PLEASURE (Mrs. Ann. Bet), W. Cummighem 6 to 13
LUCKY GANICSHA, (Mrs. S. Smith) 16/3 S. Smith 5 to 13.
PETITE BUSH U.G. Riction) 8. Billion 5 to 13
JACK FLASH (Mrs. S. Wilson) 5. Nettewell 4 to 6
NOSHWANNIKIN (Stanton J. Cumb 16/18) Electrons

MOSHBANNIKIN (Septem J Curts) M W Easterby 4 10 6.
TOATS MAN (G F White) G Write 4 10 6.
WRANGEL (FR) (Lacy Loyd Webber) J Fersengel 4 10 6.
MARTINA'S MOONSTONE (May LA Timum) T Easterby 4 10 1.

- 25 decisced -BETTING: 5-2 Joe Buzz, 9-2 Surnthyrie Special, 7-1 Mertha's Moonstone, 6-1 Woodfield Gale, 16-1 Tell Monly, Wrangel, 12-1 Welfswood, 14-1 Mr Busby, 16-1 Lucity Generia, Stiff Friends, 20 others

4.00 JAMES ROBSON CLARK MEMORIAL HANDICAP SKY

1 31-F2 BLUE CHARM (18) (D) (BF) (M Lindsey) Mrs S Brothure B 11 31-Mr M Brechurse (S) 2 212-F BRIGHTER SHADE (15) (CD) (D S Hat) Mrs M Brecky B 11 11. Mr M Brechurse (S) 3 -F234 BALLYLINE (19) (The 49 Partnershy) W (snrg) 7 11 ... A Dobbin 4 3-F234 BALLYLINE (19) (The 49 Partnershy) W (snrg) 7 11 ... A Dobbin 5 2-22 RIVER (LINSHON (30) (D) (BF) (R J Criste) J H Johnson 6 11 0 ... P Carborry 5 2-233 BRIARTS DELIGHT (39) (C) (A Carle) R Alan 10 0 11 ... A Gentity V 6 4P2-3 CITTARNO (22) (D) (D B Dernison C Thombers 8 10 0 ... A Gentity V 7 45-223 BLAZING DAWN (70) (C) (D) (J S Hutbuch) J Hubbuch 11 100 ... B Storry 6 P395-P POTATO MAN (22) (D) (Dres Foster) 8 Box 12 10 0 ... C McCharact (S) 3 35 MP MIGHTY MERC (S4) (Mrs Bayl K Broad) Mrs B Broad 10 10 0 ... D Bertiny - 9 declared - McCharact (Ds. Ince handcap weight Barry Dawn Sci Bib. Polsto Man 9st 6b, Mighty Merc 9ct 5b. BETTING: 11-4 Biver Unstrion, 9-2 Bibe Charm, Brighter Stande, 8-1 Bellyline, 7-1 Brist's Delight, Citadino, 10-1 Bissing Dawn, 20-1 others

Citadino, 10-1 Stazing Dawn, 20-1 others
FORM GUIDE
RIVER UNSNICN needs to sooid the sort of mistake that had him on the floor in fleat

RIVER UNSINION needs to avoid the sort of mistake that had him on the floor in Real Toric's race here in November but he's been a bit unbody otherwise this season. River Unshorn was up against the in-form Linden's Lotto at Catterick last time and Manon Mieo, who beat him at Cheltanham, went on to complete a hat-frick (the Cheltanham third, Tell The Napper, was a close three of 21 to 1 me for A Plun at Leopardatown over Christmas). Blue Charm beat Linden's Lutio at Musselburgh and then firshed a close second to Tough Test there, Ballytine to lengths back in fourth after making the running. Ballytine might prefer this shorter thip but the lopareignt tooks Beely to make a race of it. Brighter Shade has room for improvement. Citadino is having only his second outing over lences, but he's a possibility with only 10 stone in his first handloop chase.

Selection: RIVER UNSHON

# PUNTERS' GUIDE

ASCOT 1.15: EVER BLESSED returned after a long absence to finish a close second in a hot novice hurdle in testing ground at Chepstow and may be able to cope with another promising type, Royal Toast.

1.45: With Golden Spinoer and Terzo out of form, Super Com well out of the handicap and Kadi with something to prove after finishing second of two finishers, OBAN and Super Tactics should have this to nselves. The former is lightly raced and open to improvement. 

2.20: LORD DORCET is improving fast and put up his best pernance when almost bearing Viking Flagship (ast time. Arctic Kinsman is well handicapped but unreliable. Native Mission is no forlorn hope at long odds.

NEWCASTLE

2.25: Mary Reveley complicates matters here by fielding three - all last-time-out winners. Her stable has been going through a lean spell, however, so it seems best to side with CLASSIC EAGLE. This one is saddled by Di Haine, whose small vard has hit form of late.

3.00: JYMJAM JOHNNY likes to force the pace and this tough track should bring out the best in him. Green Green Desert is obviously the one he has to beat. 

4.00: Paul Carberry teamed up with River Unshion at Catterick last time and they finished a good sec-

### HYPERION'S TV TIPS

problem. The latter was given a gentle introduction to fences over Ayr (2m) three weeks ago. Today's extra half-mile should enable Martin Foster to secure victory.

WARWICK

2.05: Bakker is another expensive Flat recruit to join David Nicholson. But on this occasion it may be best to rely on the experience and toughness of TOM TAILOR. 

2.35: Caridwen sauntered to victory over four rivals at Market Rasen last time. Billy Worthington's mount takes on far tougher oppo-sition. A N C Express displayed prowess as a soft-ground stayer two seasons ago and a return to form was indicated at Sandown last time. The grey was going well un-til blundering at the 13th, MISS DISKIN has been brought along steadily this season and the mare should now be ready to strike. .: 

3.16: Unsinkable Borer can make a bold bid despite being 12fb wrong at the weights. PRINCEFUL though, should not be opposed.

Jenny Pitman's runner has a touch. of class and romped home from Moorish at Cheltenham last time. 

3.40: WITH IMPUNITY clouts the odd fence but as long as Timond to Linden's Lotto. But giving my Murphy sits tight he should reach the winner's enclosure.

	1988	89	90	81	92	93	94	95	96	97
Pate of the favourites:	A	1	6	4	1	4	4	5	Р	1
Winner's place in bettin	g: A	Ť	ō	2.J	1	2	3	2	D	1
Starting-prices:	A	6-4	10-1	11-4	6-4	9-2	3-1	3-1	8-1	9-4
Winning weights:	_	120	100	104	1110	1010	1010	10.9	104	1010
Winner's age:	A	10	11	8	9	7	7	8_	8_	8
Profit or loss to £1 stale	: Fave	ourite	s -£0	75 S	econd	Favo	urites	+02	37	
Percentage of winners (										
Shortest-priced winners	c Dese	rt Or	chid (	989) t	Wate	riao E	koy (19	9E) 6	4	
Longest-priced winner:										
Top trainers: J FitzGerali D Nicholson	d – Me – Wate	ideor rico	ir (199 Boy (1	O), Syl 992), V	billin (1 Vilang	993) Pags	rip (19	9-9		
Top jockey: A Dunwoody										

### FIRST SHOW

As	cot -	2.2	20	]	War	wick	· — 2	35	
Horse	C	N	L	_ т]	Horse	C	Щ	L	
Celtoste	9-2	9-2	92	5-1	Corldwan	5-1	11-2	5-1	5
Lord Dovoet	9-2	5-1	5-1	5-1	Martel Boy	6-1	7-1	7-1	. 7-
Or Royal	92	9-2	9-2	5-1	Heichem Boy	7-1	7-1	8-1	8
Auctic Kinstyan	132	6-1	13-2	6-1	Milgo Dieldn	10-1	7-1.	7:1	6-
the Signature	13-2	6-1	6-1	13-2	Kilipahin	11-1	12-1	9-1	11-
Jeffeli	6-1	11-2	8-1	7.1	Over The Deal	12-1	12-1	11-5	10
Cumbrish Challe		7:1	8-1	7.1	ANC Express	12-1	12-1	14-1	12
Lécted	9-1	10-1	9-1	8-1	Danger Baby	14-1	14-1	14-1	14
Netwe Mission	20-1	20-1	14-1	14-1	Fall Of Oats	12-1	21	2-1	14
Earl New at					Jet Pizies	14-1	13-1	12-1	12
C-Cond H-W					Persona Stoy	12-1	9-1	12-1	14
C-0014 11-11	BITTI TE, L		JACO. 1	. 106	Church Low	14-1	16-1	16-1	_16
					Top ,lavalin	16-1	16-1	16-1	12
Lina	field		50	$\neg$	Evengelica	16-1	20-1	1B-1	25
-			.36		Grange Buske	33-1	33-1	33-1	33
Horse	c_	<u>H</u>			States Stephanie	33-1	251	28-1	23

	_				Grange Busho	33-1	33-1	33	33-1
Horse	c	<u>H</u>		<u>_</u>	Status Stephanie	33-1	25-1	28-1	33-1
Coseack Count	6-1	8-1	8-1	92	Each way a quan	_			_
Redoubtable	7-1	8-1	8-1	8-1	C - Coost N - Willer				
Speedy Classic	9-1	8-1	9-1	8-1	U-COLAR II-VIII-VIII-VIII-VIII-VIII-VIII-VIII-		- 1200	J-65, 1 -	
Fayik	15-2	9-1	8-1	10-1					
Stoppes Brow	8-1	101_	9-1	11-1	Wary	viek	_ 7	40	
Chipsinad Bay	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1		A I C.N.	-	.40	
Paincegnin Touch	10-1	11-1	10-1	12-1	House	C	H	L	
Allahad	14-1	9-1	34-1	12-1	Clore Man	5-2	94	2-1	94
Apollo Red	12:1	12-1	12-1	14-1	With impurity	7-2	4-1	7-2	3-1
Plan For Profit	14-1	12-1	12-1	10-1	Jibber The Kilbber	9-2	7-2	4-1	7-2
Salty Jack	14-1	10-1	10-1	9-1	Memor Meo	41	9-2	5-1	8-1
Tierin Creeks	14-1	12-1	14-1	12-1	Lance Amstrong	B-1	8-1	7-1	10-1
Scienor Ridge	14-1	18-1	18-1	18-1	Targe	9-1	9-1	10-1	11-1
Ekas Flyer	20-1	20-1	24	20-1	Allo George	12-1	14-1	18-1	14-1
Digpast	조1	죠-1	25-1	33-1	Dr Lount	race	is :ecor	nd prefer	enza
Mr Propty	Z-1	33-1	33-1	33-1	Ked	LSOB I	5.9econ	d prefer	ence
Each way a quar C - Coral N - William		-			Each way, a Mile C - Coral N - William				

Warv	rick	<b>—</b> 3	.40					
House	C	н	L	Ţ				
Clare Man	5-2	94	2-1	94				
With imposity	7-2	4-1	7-2	3-1				
Jibber The Kilbber	9-2	7-2	4-1	7-2				
Memor Miso	41	9-2	5-1	8-1				
Lance Amstrong	8-1	8-1	7-1	10-1				
Timpo	9-1	9-1	10-1	11-1				
Alto George	12.1	_14-1_	18-1	141				
Dr Lount	race is second preference							
Ked	race is second preference							
Each way, a ID								
C - Coral N - William	n HELL	-Lady	des T	Total				

SOUTHWELL

12.30: 1. KIO ORY (P Fessey) 14-1; 2. Mullagh Hill Lad 12-1; 3. River Enzign 6-1. 11 ran. 2-1 fav Seanchei. 1%, nk. (D Chapman). Tota: \$1700; \$750, \$240, \$250, DF: \$183.30. CSF: £172.78. Tricas: \$1059.70. Tric: \$190.70.

2.3.C.1. CHRN CASTLE (L. Chemoog 4-5 fav; 2. Ruffles Rooster 15-8; 3. Dick Turpin 12-1. 6 ran. 2, 9 (P Hastarn), Total: \$1.00; \$1.50, \$1.00. DF; \$1.70. CSF; \$2.48. NF; Fast. 3.00: 1. DOUBLE ECHO (Mr J Cowtey) 14-1; 2. Ajdar 6-1; 3. Raindeer Quest 7-2 fax. 12 ran. 1%, 3/A. (J Bethell, Total: \$22.30, \$23.40, \$2.10, \$3.00. DF; \$26.50, CSF; \$9187. Tripsyt; \$32.770. Text. \$22.20.

Thosas: 533779, The: 58320.

3.39: 1. PINE RIDGE LAD (O Peerl)
evens far; 2. Hollowity Mellody 10-1; 3. Automome Venture 9-1. 11 ren. 6, 2%, 1/1 L Eyre).
Rote: 52:10: 51:10: 52:30. 52:30. DF: 50:56.

CSF: \$13:16. Trio: £19:80. NR: Army Leigh
4.00: 1. GODMERSHAM PARK (G
Parkin) 9-6 far; 2. Concien Decline 7:1; 3.

Parkin) 9-4 fav; 2. Dencing Desting 7-1; 3. Pleasure Trick 9-1.15 ran. 11, 21, (P. Felgets) Tote: \$350; \$200, \$220, \$530, DF: \$550, \$570, \$670,

Placepot: £3330. Quedpot: £550. Place 6: £28,75. Place 5: £454.

THE INDEPENDENT

Cath cost Silp per seionte. TAS, pic, Scrotton St.EC2A-47.

KEMPTON 1.00: 1, ROAD RACER (J A McCarthy) 7-4 fav. 2. Duel Or Buel 25-1; 3. Almond Rock 100-30, 14 ran. 2, 8 (P Webber) Tate: 2,290: E130, E150, E170, DF: £72,50, CSF: £51,23, Trio: £30,70. 1.35: 1. ROYAL ARCTIC (C Webb) 7-1; 2.

1.50: 1. BAHER (Miss R Clark) 9-2 It fav: 2. Falir And Fancy 5-1; 3. Capitain Tenerad 50-1. 15 ran, 9-2 it fav Opera Fan, 7, 3/5. (S Clark) Tota: 2650: 2210 (2350, 2220, 07: 22120, CSF: 22864, Tricast: 21098,86, Tric: 724400

3.50: 1, FORZAIR (P Carberry) 4-1; 2. Lit-tie Duke 13-2; 3. Primitive Heart 7-1 12 ran.

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + ascot NEWCASTLE WARWICK 973 983 LINGFIELD 974 984

3-1 fav Hurst Flyer (4th). 1/s. 10. (J.J. O'Nell). Tote: 6480: E200. E120. E190. DF: E1880. CSF: E28:38. Tricest: E16405. Thi: E7200. Placepot: E8640. Cusedpot: E640. Place 6: E25:38. Place 5: E556. 1.351. ROYAL ARCTIC (C W600) 7-1; 2. 5000 7-1; 3. Welen Sirk 8-1 15 ran, 5-1 sw. Macy (5th) 11/L, 7. (5 Melon) Tota: 0570; 0190. 0270, 0190. DF: 52290. CSF: 55452 Tricas: 029672 Tro: 65150. NF: Surgeal Spirit. 2.05-1, MORSTOCK (7 Decombs) 9-4 sr.; 2. Robins Pride 10-1; 3. Sublime Fel-SR330 CSF: £172.79. Tricast: £1059.70. Tric: £190.70.

1.00: 1. ICE AGE (D Bogs) 3-1 |t fav; 2. Gadge 3-1 |t fav; 3. Napoleon Star 7-2.9 ran. 7, 2. (R Willems), Toke: £2.00. £120. £2.00. £180. DF: £7.10. CSF: £1184. Tricast: £3.054. Tric: £7.80. NRs: Superapperos, Unstraken 1.30: 1. MR FORTYWIN KS (Mas Diems Jones) 10-11 fav; 2. Head Gardener 2-1; 3. Modeat Hope 14-1, 12 ma. 5, 1½. [J L Eyre), Toke: £150, £10, £250, £350. DF: £23.70. £2.00: 1. MISTER ASPECTO (D Holland) 7-4 fav; 2. Private Fixture 9-2; 3. Golden Hadeer 7-1 9 ma. 4, hd. (M Johnston) Toke: £330: £10, £23.0, £180. DF: £370. CSF: £050. Tric: £23.50.

2.05.7. Moths Prick 10-1; 3. Sublime Fel-low 7-2.8 ran. 11/4, 1/4. (R Hodges), Tota: 12.90; Eu. 0, E2.50; E1.90 DF: E1.80 CSF; 12.24; Trucast: E70.9. 2.40; 1, ZAFARABAD (R Johnson) 13-8 tar; 2. Borazon 5-2; 3. Darcy 3-1, 13 ran. 2/4, 28 (D Nchoon), Tota: 52.70; E1.00 CISO 15.50. DF: 64.00 CSF: 52.58. Tho: 53.00 3.10: 1, SAIL BY THE STARS (S Wynne) 7-2; 2. Ornevell Lad 8-1; 3. Redeemyourself 17-2; 9 ran. 3-1 tav Eulogy (ur. 174, 18, (T Forsten) Fole: E3.60; £1.30, €2.50; £2.20. DF: 17.90 CSF: £3.02, Thoast: £14.78. Tho: £25.00 3.40: 1, ISTTOFF (R Durwoody) 2-1 fay; 2. Kedge Anchor Men 5-1; 3. Reasmore Girt 100-30, 14 ran. 10, 7 (P Hobbs), Tota: 52.70; £1.00, £2.20, £1.20. DF: £6.10 CSF: £2.24, Tho: £8.20 4.10: 1. TOMPETOO (C Llewelyn) 3-1 fay; 2. Shepherds Rest 12-1; 3. Millimount 8-1, 15 ran. 5, 7, (N Twiston-Davies), Tota: £3.80; £1.70; £2.70; £2.80 DF: £6.50 CSF: £40.76. Tricast: £2.86.52. Tho. £100.50 NPs. Irrad.

Tricast: £286.52 Tho. £100.50 MRs: Imad Peatswood. Jackpot: £3,173.80

MUSSELBURGH

MUSSELBURGH

12.50: 1. KING OF THEVES (D Galagher)
8-1; 2. Count Tony 8-1; 3. Shibing Example 30-1; 5 ran. 4-11 fev Justin Mac (4th); 1/2.
15 (C Marn) Tota: 12.70; 11.0, 11.20; 24.30.
DF: 24.60 CSF: 24.90, Tho: 24.850, NF: Hoh Express.

1.20: 1. GEORGE Of LINGHAM (L Wyort II-10 fav; 2. Faol A Line 4-1; 3. Inyougobles 10-18 fran. 18, 2/4. (D Smith) Tota: 180 c3.00, Dec 2000 CSE Dies. ougobbue 10-1 8 ran, 15, 2/s. (U Simul), 10-25 £180; £180 £150 £230, DP: £280 CSP: 6451

223400. 2.20: 1. CHINA KING (P Carberry) 5-1; 2. Moss Pageant 18-1; 3. Noble Tom 5-2 fav. 10 ran. 4. %. (J Fizz Gerald): Tota: E440; 5110, 5500, 5150 DF: 52250 GSF: 58841 Tric: 53580.

2.50: 1. ROSINGO (Mr.S. Durack) 15-8 fav. 2. Topothenorthracing 3-1; 2. Shonara's Way 5-2. 6 ran. 6, 8, (J Neville), Tota; £2.30; £1.0, £1.20, £1.20, DF: £2.10, CSF: £7.48, Tri-200 1: 22.0 FF: 27.0 CSF: 17.0 H-cast: 12.13 3.20: 1. TOM BRÖDRE (E Caleghan) 8-2; 2. Arctic Sandy 5-2 fev; 3. Dual Image 10-1, 8 ran. 2. nk. (J.H. Johnson), Totes (230; 5:60, 5:10, 52.80, DF: \$4.20, CSF: \$15.55, Tricast:

distriction of the All Commence  $e_{i}(\sigma(x)) \geq V(\sigma(x))$ Antonia de la compansión de la compansió Burney Company 200 March 1921 11  $(x_i, x_i, x_i, x_i) \in \mathcal{A}$ Barrellian . . . . listration ( Miscon Commission (Commission Press)

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GREG WC THE A-Z OF BETTING

Ris for grande Contract of the gibron and a

LINGFIELD 1.65 Bon Guess 1.40 (A 45 Months 3.20 Barb

ADVANTAGE:

CLASS F) E

not just a bookie, he is one of the few fearless bookies that remain. The only thing that worries him is the future of his profession.

Victor Chandler is looking very well - for a relic. There is the trademark sharp suit, a monoface which betrays barely half of its 46 years. In fact, there is no doubt about it. Victor Chandler is looking very well, full stop.

But a relic he still is, in one sense at least. Fifty years ago, the betting rings of British race-They were punters, too. On the of Sterope, who won the Campeople at Newmarket who who's a true sportsman, who

ALTHURA - 14

10000

40-1, and injected almost £50,000 (the equivalent of a cool £1m these days) into the family coffers. These days, bookies like

extinction. Some may say that one man with a big satchel is no different from the next, but you Ascot today to see what sets him apart. Remember the Ladbroke Hurdle a week ago? Two dozen handicappers on the tightest of tracks. Chandler, on the other ciety has changed hand, promotes a select hand- a great deal. The a hint of unseasonal tan on a tracts the finest two-milers in City has changed training, horses like Waterloo a lot, so you don't Boy, Viking Flagship and Desert Orchid.

"I love the jumping, so 1 wanted a chase," he says, "and when this came up, it was perfect. The nice thing is that we courses were seething with fear- can entertain about 120 clients. less bookmakers - Chandler's and a lot of my clients have befather and grandfather among come friends over the years. them - for whom a serious bet There are people like Brian was a challenge, not a threat. Stewart Brown, who won our race last year [with Ask Tom]. wall of Chandler's office near he's a good friend and a client Regent's Park is a large portrait for a long time. He bashes me up a bit more often than I'd like, bridgeshire in 1948. It was com- hut you've got to take a longmissioned by his father, "Old" term view. It's very hard to con-Victor, who was one of the few sider closing down someone £50,000 on, and we regularly lay

backed him. Sterope started at looks after small trainers as well lion in a single bet. It might and he was losing even more. In you know, "If you're on the That's the sort of people we need in the game."

We regularly lay horses to lose a quarter of a million in a single bet,' says Victor Chandler, the master of the rails

In all, Chandler has more than 5,000 clients on his books, that are a breed on the edge of and sends out about 1,200 bills after a normal fortnight's trading. But a brave bookie needs a braver punters to keep him in need only glance at the race business, and the right sort of which Chandler sponsors at customer is ever more difficult to find.

"The late 1980s were very very good for us." he says, "but so-

BY GREG get stockbrokers taking Wednes-

and nothing like that had happened before. I was shocked." As a result, the two big Festival meetings, Royal Ascot and Cheltenham, grow ever more important. "We rely on those meetings to make the business pay these days. At Cheltenham, there are individual players who will have £40,000 or

horses to lose a quarter of a mil-

and isn't frightened to have a go. sound blase to say that, but the last race, he backed the winfigures depend on your circumstances at the time, and the racing is so competitive that people don't fall on one horse like they do at Sandown on a Saturday. You might lay six or seven horses to lose huge amounts in the same race, and

five or six others as well." Even so, there is no guaranteed profit when the tapes go up. Chandler laid a bet of £20,000 at 9-2 about Va-

gador just before 1988, not to menwas a headlong

day afternoon off to go racing gamble. Almost 10 years on just any more. Midweek, the big a mention of the name brings a players just aren't there. One slight glaze to his eyes. "Terri-Friday at Newhury a few weeks hle." he mutters. "We fell into ago, we took £30 on one race. a trap there." It still hurts.

There was also the famous case of the man who lost a fortune and then got it all hack. "He was at Royal Ascot the whole week. I had him right behind the eight-ball, he was really firing at me. It was the best week we'd ever had, and all through it I was going home and telling my wife how clever we'd ner, got the forecast up, and the you a lot of money, you might Tricast as well. It came to just under £1m, and it was everything he'd lost in the whole survive like that. If a trainer week. I had to be carried out of the office." Ultimately, of course, there are more losers than winners, as the huge BMW with a VC

number plate in the garage beneath his office testifies. Yet still there are not enough of them to fill the tank entirely, and these days, Chandler is a reguthe start of the lar punter too. He employs a Supreme Nov- private handicapper, a time ex- that are my heroes." Try as you keeps his ear to the ground extion dozens of clusively on Victor's behalf. On others in what an average Saturday at the races, he might make a book on three or four races, and punt on may be that a punter in 2020 will the rest, either by walking into not understand what a proper, the ring and having a bet, or lay-

ing a horse he does not fancy. Above all, though, he remains the hetting ring's most obvious target. The average punter can only dream of staking the sort of sums which Chandler will accept, but if they had that kind of money, he is the man they would all love to take on. It is something to do with the way he stands there in a cashmere coat and Savill been. Then he went on to the Row suit, and dares you to, no evening meeting on the Friday matter who you are, or what

things but not, in general, con-

sistency. The Jockey Club, to be

floors will pay a lot better." So take him on now, while you still have the chance. If you

offer is oot available with Lad-

Rules of Betting: There are a of all is the one that is not writsult" concession, that is, they pay on both outcomes when a result is overturned. You may not be startled to hear that this

# Will a Green

wrong end of a plot and it costs

scream and weep a hit," be says,

"but some trainers have got to

hasn't got many horses, they'll

have to have a bet occasional-

ly to pay the wages. I take a

slightly different attitude to

the Jockey Club, but if they're

blatant they get pulled in, and

if they're clever they don't,

and the punters love it. You can

look back to people like Ron

Smyth, who basically made a liv-

ing out of punting. People like

head accountant at Ladbrokes

will not be there forever, and it

old-time bookmaker is. "T've no

children, so I look like being the

last." Chandler, a fourth-gen-

eration bookie, says. "By now,

there should be people coming

up to replace the likes of

Stephen [Little] and me, but the

unfortunate thing is that people

with the mentality to be a book-

maker will now find that the

Forex market and the trading

But the Chandler challenge

taking a similar view.

# Green rascal come home?

Al Capone was born on 17 January and today also promises to be a television widow-maker of an afternoon with 10 races available across the airwaves. Only those with access to the extraterrestrial, however, will he able to watch the excitement from Newcastle, where Sky begins its pitch for the Saturday market.

Team Murdoch has signed a contract with Gosforth Park which means the track's notable contests, such as the Eider Chase and the Northumberland Plate, are exclusively theirs. Today's offering is hardly up to that standard, though the Dipper Novices' Chase is both valuable and not without interest. The name horse here is Green Green Desert (3.00), one of those marvellous beasts whom everyone seems to know even though he's not hrilliant. What he is, is an unadulterated scamp.

Green Green Desert made a great skill of finishing in the frame on the Flat while at the same time conveying the im-Photograph: Herbie Knott pression he could have won with a smidgen more application. They thought obstacles might iron him out, but they thought wrongly. The seven-year-old still fools around, but such is his natural ability that he has won four of his last five races. He should succeed again today, but it's not worth putting good

money on that eventuality. At Warwick, there is another Lucifer of the turf in the shape of Sister Stephanie. Graham McCourt's mare has established that it is far less breathtaking to stand rock still when the tapes go up than amble off with the rest of her species. Last Saturday, she did actually start at Sandown, but she was soon finished, falling at the first. Sclecting one scoundrel on a Saturday is probably more than enough, so the old mare is passed over here for another of

The tough out to crack on this card is the 26-runner handicap hurdle, but as most of the field are out of the handicap, h may not be quite as unfathomable as it first appears. The one to be is Princeful (next best 3.10), who was overpowering at Cheltenham last time. He will need to be good to beat Lord Jim.

Even Lingfield has its attractions today, when the sugar daddies of Ladhrokes stage the all-weather handicap final. though the main card of the weekend, of course, is at samrated Ascot, Off air the principal interest will centre on Bellator, who is being talked about as a possible winner of both the Tote Gold Trophy and the Champion Hurdle. If he can't win today be'll capture neither of the other two.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Ceridwen (Warwick 2.35) NB: Green Green Desert (Newcastle, 3.00)

Royal Toast (1.15) looks good for starters, and the run of Snper Tactics (1.45) will give us a clue as to how Celibate might perform in the day's top event, the Victor Chandler Chase. When the pair met here last month, Super Tactics was given a sound thrashing.

The betting shape of the Victor Chandler exhibits just how open the race is. There are claims for Or Royal, even though his best distance is probably beyond two miles, and Mulligan, who spends more time on the floor than lino.

Celibate (2.20), like his trainer, Charlie Mann, has had a chequered career, which includes a second in the Belgian Champion Hurdle at Waregem. He was beaten six and a balf lengths by Or Royal in the Arkle Chase at last year's Festival, so the weights give him a sporting

### Sheikhs give blessing to plan

dan Al Maktoum have given their support to the British Horseracing Board's newly unveiled financial plan and urged the BHB to put it to the Government "as soon as possible".

family will pull their horses out of Botain if a "fairer" financial structure is not introduced.

But Sheikh Mohammed re-

Peter Savill, a leading British owner and a director of the

Sheikh Mohammed and Ham- BHB, hailed as a success the visit he and the trainer John Gosden made to Duhai to discuss the plan with the two Sheikhs. "Both were fully supportive of the plan," he said.

Their threats still hang heavy in the air of racing, however, peated his threat that he and his and as if to emphasise this point Sheikh Hamdan moved his Middle Park Stakes winner. Hayil, and 11 other horses that were trained by the late David Morley to France yesterday.

**GREG WOOD** THE A-Z OF BETTING

R is for . . .

to £2 which is of no use to man or beast. As a rule, the people who write the brief comments on each runner do not so much hedge their bets, as plant a mass of pine and spruce which would do credit to the Forestry Comand take a newspaper instead. This one, preferably.

Ramsden, Jack: One of the shrewdest punters operating in British betting, and as such his name is the only thing he has in common with . . .

Ramsden, Terry: Who was a colourful addition to racecourse life during the 1980s, when his excursions into the ring were spectacular and ill-judged in equal measure. Strangely, some who remember those heady Racecard: Usually a thin, shod- days still believe that Tel gave the bookies a hiding. In fact, it known to all and sundry as

Ramsden was such a regular loser that many layers imagined they had died and gone to heaven (which was rather a presumption, since when the time comes most of them are booked mission. Do yourself a favour on a one-way ticket in the opposite direction). Though his company, Glen International. apparently did something clever in the Japanese markets, no one ever worked out precisely what it was, or why it should be so wildly lucrative that Ramsdon could cheerfully stick £250,000 each-way on Mr Snugfit, his runner in the 1986 National. Whatever it was, it went pearshaped in the crash of 1987, and Terry was warned off for nonpayment of gambling debts.

Rack, Mrs J V: Who was

Still, it was fun while it lasted.

was quite the opposite. and "Pat" during her punting career in the immediate post-War years. She married Jimmy fair, has tweaked the regula-Rank, one of the richest men of his day, and set about gamfast as he could make it. The story goes that Jimmy eventually felt it necessary to buy a bookmaking firm behind his for most of her husiness to be channelled through it in order to preserve at least some of his fortune. What an old remande.

Rules of Racing: Of which there are many hundreds, although only those which may affect the pay-out after a race are of serious interest to punters. This boils down to riding offences, and not so much the letter of the law, as its interpretation by the local stewards, who are famous for many

tions down the years and fewer horses which were winners bling away his money almost as on merit are now losing the race in the stewards' room, but such issues as whether or not a horse has improved its placing - which can make the differwife's back, and then arrange ence between a result standing or being thrown out - will always be subjective, in much the same way as no referee can honestly say whether someone in an offside position in football is actually interfering with play. The only possible solution from a punting point of view is to bet with one of the dozens of independent bookies who still offer a "double-re-

brokes, William Hill or Coral.

lot of these as well, so many in fact that when they stick them up in hetting shops, they use such miniature type that no one can ever be hothered to read them. No matter, though, because the most important rule ten down, specifically: Thou shalt not win. This ultimate law is enforced by any number of means, the most effective being that employed by credit bookmakers, who close the accounts of anyone in danger of breaking it. Irritating though this may be for the customer, there is no greater accolade in the punting world than to receive a snippy letter from a bookie telling you that your business is no longer required.

LINGFIELD

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints.

dy pamphlet costing anything up

GOING: Standard STALLS: Im - outside; rest - inside.

DRAW ACMANTAGE: Low in spiritis.

Left-hand, sharp course.

Course is SE-of sown on B2028. Lingfield station adjoins course.

ADMISSION: END (under 18s free). CAR PARK: Cub 23; rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore — 7s winners from 549 nathrang place success ratio of 13.5%; M Johnston 50 from 27; (19.5%); R Hannon 44 from 319 (13.6%); Gey Kellewsy 35 from 203 (17.2%).

LEADING JOCICEYS: A Clark 64 wins from 555 rides gives a success ratio of 12.4%; S Sendant 56 from 528 (10.5%); S Whiteworth 40 from 302 (13.2%); T Williams 21 from 212 (19.9%).

FAYOURITES: 665 wins in 2022 races (32.9%).

BAYOURITES: 665 wins in 2022 races (32.9%).

BAYOURITES: 675 wins in 2022 races (32.9%).

BAYOURITES: 675 wins in 2022 races (32.9%).

BLINICERED FIRST TIME: Prince Of Selse (210); Mendoza (320).

1.05 STUBBS A MATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f

1 0440 MC PATTERN (JSS) (C) GL Moore 6 11 7. Mr I Mongan (7) 10
2 45000 ROYAL CELLUM (9) D Williams 5 11 2... Mr Edgar Byrne (3) 9
3 2594 8004 GUST (9) C) Mss B Senders 4 11 0... Min L Sheen (5) 17
4 7003.5 CHANDACHGOOK (16) S Dow 4 10 11... Mr R Guest (5) 6
5 05000 CALL MY QUEST (J2S3) R PRECOCK 8 10 8. Mrs C Prescock (3) 7

1.05 Bon Guest 1.40 Mystical 2.10 Phantom Ring 2.45 Nisaba 3.20 Barbason 3.50 Cossack Count

1.40 HARRINGTON BIRD CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) 23,750 added 61 

BETTING: 6-4 Mystical, 7-4 Ultra Sect, 5-1 Raffwy Spunney, 12-1 The Frisky Farmet, Methourne Priocess, 14-1 Superiac, 33-1 Slightly Diver

2.10 SNAFFLES MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 3YO 6f 

2.45 MUNNINGS LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 005-67 ACCYSTAN (7) P Hassam 8 t3 005-29 DANCING RIO (7) (8F) P Hassam 8 t3 603-17 NISABA (11) (CD) J S Moore 8 t2 030-30 ESTOPPED (7) M Quint 8 11

- 4 declared -BETTING: 4-5 Nisaba, 5-2 Accystan, 7-2 Dancing Rio, 16-1 Estopped 3.20 CECIL ALDIN HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m

40634 BRILLIANT RED (42) (D) Photoer 5 10 () A Clark 11 35-0 TOUGH LEADER (23) 8 Handury 4 9 3 S Sanders 4 00256 ROBO MAGIC (29) (C) L Monague Hali 6 9 8 M Hanfield (7) 6 4335.2 BARBASON (14) (CD) G L Moore 6 9 4 Candy More 2 Candy More 2 P Dobtes (7) 8 00000 ROYAL CARLTON (7) (CD) G L Moore 6 8 9 S Whitworth 1

# McCoy can time Royal accession

The former National Hunt jockey Steve Smith Eccles (right) gives a runner-by runner analysis of today's Victor Chandler Handicap Chase.



Mulligan: Top weight will not Arctic Kinsman: Nigel do his chances any good. A useful horse at his best but cannot be trusted to put in a clear round.

Or Royal: A class young horse who is still improving. He won last year's Arkle Trophy at the Cheltenham Festival and his jockey, Tony McCoy, is keen on his chances. Or Royal will be suited by a strong pace but don't expect to see his grey nose until the closing stages.

Celibate: Came good last time over this course and distance, winning the Frogmore an improving sort who can Handicap Chase. Mick Fitzgerald takes the reins and I expect to see the combination in the frame.

Jeffell: Irish raider who loves to bowl along in front and usually jumps well. However, I cannot see him getting into the front line on what he has achieved this season.

Leotard: Has an excellent each-way chance. He would have finished second to Celibate rather than fourth but for making mistakes in the closing stages of the Frogmore Chase.

been some money for this grey. He ran poorly at Cheltenham last time and has a bit to find in my book. Lord Dorcet: Flattered when second to a below-par Viking Flagship at Wetherby. He will have his supporters but I am

Twiston-Davies's horses are

hitting a real purple patch af-

ter a slow start and there has

not one of them. Combrian Challeoge: In great form, winning his last four starts. He races in a higher league this time but is

Native Mission: The rise in the weights is to his advantage and his trainer, Jimmy FitzGerald, rates his chances. Needs to show dramatic improvement to play any part.

run a big race.

Conclusion: There is sure 10 be plenty of pace and that should suit OR ROYAL, who likes to come late. Tony Mc-Coy is bullish about his chances, while Mulligan's hopes hinge on his jumping. Leotard, Celibate and Cumbrian Challenge to battle it out for the minor placings.



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ON THE **ALTERNATIVE ATTRACTIONS** 

Apparently I've seen Stirling is always more interesting than Moss. At Brands Hatch, so my parents always maintained. And when I think hard about it. I do faintly recall a sporting echo from that far-off Sixties

Two towers of white paper cups were constructed somewhere behind the backs of the spectating adults, and if my memory serves me well my tower grew bigger than that of my cousin David's hefore it crashed to the ground.

I believe there was some discussion among the adults about a more public crash that occurred on the other side of the fence, but that was none of our concern. We were not interested in the main attraction.

Alternative attractions are everywhere in the sporting realm - they need only to be not quite looked for. And an aside

the speech it punctuates.

I was once involved, along with a roomful of other journalists, in a live satellite linkup to interview Nigel Mansell. who was on the other side of the Atlantic preparing to challenge for the Indianapolis 500

We linked before he realised, and our wide screen suddenly transmitted his image as he chatted with his I cam aides about getting the sponsors' names into every interview he was about to undertake. "Got to keep them happy," he said. Most entertaining.

The light snow of publicity which has already fallen on us concerning next month's Winter Olympics in Nagano reminds me of a moment of quiet bliss I enjoyed at the last

bling on a rink, and the noise of clapping dies away, there is an interlude which features of actually attending a football the quiet but insistent attraction of a tractor-like vehicle

which resurfaces the ice. How to describe the soporific compulsion of this

When you next turn off the ignition in your car, instead of bundling out Inwards whatever pressing husiness awaits you outside its suddenly quiet interior, stop. Just say: Can't be fellow troublemakers. Idiots bothered. Sit back. Do nothing. Forget your busy life... That is how it feels watch-

ing the slow, orderly progress of the Zambada, or the Zemboda, or whatever silly name the machinery bears, as it sweeps rhythmically over the distressed ice, smoothing and restoring, smoothing and

smile scribbling starts up again.

One of the great blessings match rather than watching it on television is that you don't have to follow the progress of

That, as we all know, can be a tiresome husiness. Really being somewhere grants access to more interesting sideways viewing: policemen seeking out offenders who have disappeared into the rolling maul of their climbing on the stand roofs to get a better view. More safetyconscious spectators set up in overlooking tower blocks, their windows cramful of neigh-

Unemployed goalkeepers scuffing about in their areas like bored schoolboys. Stewards in

tographers. Spectators sloping out of the director's box ridiculously far ahead of the SW6. half-time whistle.

At times, of course, football crowds will turn themselves into an alternative attraction in the form of the Mexican Wave - and woe betide the section of spectators who fail to carry the impulse around the ground.

When you witness the fascist jollity of the Mexican Wave. it gives you a clear message about the quality of the main attraction. It is like when children exclaim about what a delicious, lovely, beautiful yummy meal you have scrved up rather than taking their knives and forks and tucking in.

The thought of food reminds me of an occasion when I witnessed the ultimate tri-

this revolutionary act was the Hurlingham Club in London

The first ATP Seniors tournament to be held in Britain had gathered a cluster of beloved names from tennis's recent history. The Nastase, Rod Laver, Roger Taylor, Peter Mo-Namara, uncle Tom Okker and all were on hand to entertain a hand-picked crowd of 600 corporate guests.

But the golden oldies were obliged to kick their heels and fiddle with their racket strings as a traditionally subordinate activity took on an inordinate

Laver and Co were kept waiting nearly an hour while a menu comprising Soupe de Toà l'Aneth au Beurre Blanc, dayglo waistcoats tumbling umph of the alternative at- Truffes au Chocolat, Café and

Once skaters finish scrib- restoring... until the fixed- over the backs of intent pho- traction. The sylvan setting for Truffalines et Muscadines was consumed by the chosen not so-few. Then again, the hinch had been prepared by Albert

> But perhaps my favourite recollection of an alternative attraction concerns the colleague whose concentration at the LA Olympic Games of 1984 was completely wrecked when the binoculars with which he was attempting to watch the 1500 metres semi-linal randomly alighted on a young voman of such heartbreaking beauty that he could not rest until he had made some form

of contact with her. wards the unsuspecting spectator. A liaison was arrang Two lives were changell A tion being the main attrach

# Rafter coping with weight of Australian expectation

The Australian Open gets underway on Monday, and the hosts have a current Grand Slam singles champion to support for the first time since Pat Cash in 1988, when the tournament was transferred from the grass of Kooyong to the rubberised concrete courts of the National **Tennis Centre in** Melbourne. How will Pat Rafter cope with all the

year admired by Pete Sampras, make the most of life. Pat Rafter is emphatically a

States Open champion. I'm some sort of genius now," have to do that. I'm going to Rafter said, "but

it's not as if I'm this completely BY JOHN new player – Γm the same old sack of crap I always was."

In which case, full marks

for the packaging. Only Sampras, the defending champion. I've just got to learn to deal with world champion and No I in the it. You have to deal with it. it's year-end world rankings for part of it, and when it gets too the past five years, is seeded higher than Rafter for the Aus- in a nice way. I don't like to oftralian Open men's singles title. fend anyone."

Since returning home for the fust done in seven months after Hannover in November, Rafter this week's Sydney Internadefeated in the semi-finals yesthe first Grand Slam tourna- him there for a while." ment of the year.

world it's heen pretty crazy, pretty difficult to work outside, and I guess this time it's going to he a little bit more. I'm really looking forward to it. It's going to he a lot of fun. If I could just have a relaxed attitude instead of getting up tight about the whole situation, I think that's most important."

Relaxation is not a problem for Rafter at his second home in Pembroke, Bermuda, where he gets about on a rented moped. Having experienced two years of frustration nursing tennis injuries, one of which caused him to retire during the second round of the 1996 Australian Open - "a blessing in disguise, because I realised by watching everybody else having While close to comparison with success how much I wanted it the "classy Aussies" of yester- as well" - he is determined to

"It has to be that way, mate, character in his own right. That for me to continue to be out was underlined by the 26-year- here," he said, "Listen, I'm not old Queenslander's response to going to let this success keep me the acclaim which followed his at home all the time so that I triumph last September in suc- can't go out. I don't want to deal ceeding Sampras as the United with people all the time but I'm going to have to do it. For me "People are thinking that to stay normal. I'm going to

continue to do what I love doing, that's enjoy myself off the court as well as on the court." Is he able to block out all the

attention? "Well, I can't really block it out, much I have to learn to say 'No',

A year ago. Rafter and Britain's Greg Rusedski both the ATP Tour Championship in lost in the first round of the Australian Open. They went on to has sampled the interest his vic- meet in the final of the US tory in New York created Down Open. Rafter is currently Under by participating in the ranked No 2 in the world, Hopman Cup in Perth and in Rusedski No 6. "I think Greg's going to be up there for another tional ATP Tour event. He was couple of years," Rafter said. "First of all, he's got a great terday by Oxford's Tim Hen- serve, everybody knows it. He's man, 7-6, 7-5. Monday brings a great competitor. He's startthe big one at Melbourne Park, ing to move very well. You'll see

Rafter also has the highest "Mate, listen. I don't know regard for Henman, the British what to really expect," Rafter No 2 currently ranked 19th in said. "I am figuring that it's go- the world. "Timmy is potentially ing to be pretty crazy. Even a top five player," the Aus-



Patrick Rafter smiles on his way to victory over Todd Martin in Sydney this week

behind Sampras, he's probably the next most talented player on does suit me so well is because them up and talk about it." They the Tour, I think.

"He's got everything, except that bit of strength. That's the only thing I picked up on him. He works hard. He's a great guy. great attitude. He's one of the boys in the locker room, messing around. He knows how to pretty aware of my game. My enjoy tennis, and I think that's important. That's his personal- John McEnroe in his prime ity, a good guy to hang around."

Unlike Henman and Rusedski and the majority of leading players. Rafter does not travel with a full-time coach, prefer- tennis club if his game needed matches [against Jakoh Hlasek ring instead to consult Aus- fine-tuning. "Well, I think and Marcos Ondruska] to get before long the umpire is anwhen I've been 60 or 80 in the tralian said. "He's probably got tralia's Davis Cup mentors, Roche and Newcombe are re-through to the fourth round. I nouncing game, set and match.

to get a little stronger. When I've John Newcombe and Tony played him, he's got every shot. Roche, when he feels the need. n mînk me reason it really

when I'm practising, first of all, I've got to learn that if I'm on the court, I'm playing the match. and I've got to learn to figure out times when I feel I might form had habits, but I'm pretty well aware of that at the moment. I'm game's pretty well moulded." travelled without a coach, making telephone calls to Tony Palafox in New York if he needed advice and visiting him at his

ally good like that," Rafter said. "Sometimes if I feel like something's not going well, I ring are expected to be in close

proximity on home territory. On the last occasion Rafter raised expectations at the Ausand I think he will work on that. the match myself. There are tralian Open, in 1995, he advanced to play Andre Agassi in the fourth round. Agassi, the eventual champion, cuffed him, 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

"I did learn a lot from that." Rafter said. "At the same time. I think Andre was at the top of his game then, and I wasn't playing the best tennis. I struggled through a couple of five-set

was pretty lucky to get through there. I guess I wasn't really prepared for that mach. I wasn't ready. I wasn't in the same league as Andre, and he showed that. That's what knocked me back down a couple of pegs."

Rafter's renewed confidence and the athleticism of his all-court game has enabled him to delight spectators on every continent. What pleases him most about his game is his improved mobility. "I've just been able to move and get to nearly every ball," he said. "That's frustrating people, I think, so they're going for more and more, and eventually they're missing. And when I get the right ball, I'm at the net." And

# High rollers sweep: in and pollute the memory of Eddie

Big Sunday, with its festival of big waves, is meeting the big money. The mixture does not seem to work.

I was supposed to be going to church. But I succumbed to the ancient pagan rituals on the beach. It was Big Sunday at Waimea Bay. The much trumpeted 25-foot swell finally pulled in to North Shore Grand Central.

Unfortunately, it timed its arrival for midnight. By dawn, it was down to a marginal 20. The "Quiksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau" hig-wave contest, honouring the legendary surfer and heroic Waimea lifeguard, and which stipulates day-long 20foot-plus conditions, was put back on hold.

guys paddling out and a huge secrecy. Just as at Waimea on crowd of spectators watching Sunday, of the 24 full-on con them at this Coliseum of surf-testants and their 24 alternates, ing, as massive breakers rolled maybe only 50 per cent would in, reared up, and toppled be beyond dispute. As for the over in a fury of white water. other 50 per cent, it is possi-

heady with the optimistic scent of wax, but the beach was littered with hroken boards. Two jetskis were fully employed ferrying back in a lot of dreamers. Maybe half of the pack were just there to be able to say, "Yeah, I

ANDY

**MARTIN** 

NEWS

**FROM** 

THE

NORTH

SHORE

was there". Although Waimea retains its mythic status as the holy of holies among

North Shore breaks, the Bay George, the director of the was being outgunned by the outer reefs, the cloud-breaks like Phantoms and Revela- have surfed the most radical flons, where solid beyond-Eddie-sized waves were ternoon. The Willis Brothers, Michael and Milton, board shapers to the élite big-wave aficionados, were towing-in far from the madding Waimea crowd, beyond Backyards, and getting more harrels than a beer truck.

It was too good to last. Before noon, the hig money turned up, in the shape of Team Quiksilver. Suddenly. from heing Walden Pond with waves, it was more like a Hollywood film set. Two helicopters, a couple of Zodiac hoats, nine state-ofthe-art waverunners, and about a dozen cameras, not to mention eight or nine of the hest surfers in the world had dropped in to commune with nature.

A lot of the Eddie invitees Quiksilver, were more than ster swell that's coming." matching them, wave for wave. One of the Quiksilver waves don't mix.

crew, being paid a bundle just to be there, took off on a particularly heavy wave, but pumped for the shoulder, while Milton Willis aimed straight for the most dan-

gerous core of the wave and

made it out again. There was one big name who didn't even come close and didn't go back out after lunch. Local knowledge and experience were pre-eminent. But when the pictures and the video come out. I guarantee it won't look that way: global media expertise will win out.

That episode dramatised what has become the problem with the Quiksilver contest its selection procedure. This is the only contest of its kind in the world; and merely to be in it,. let alone win it, is a massive status symbol. And yet the criteria by which the invitations are This didn't stop about 40 handed out remain clouded in

hle to imagine other names. with a greater

The truth that almost no one in Hawaii dares to speak is that the winners of the only two previous completed contests over the last few years are likewise compromised. The first winner - Clyde

Aikau - is the brother of Eddie. The second, Keone Downing is the son of whole event. While both these surfers may indeed

waves on the day, the fact that they took part let alone went breaking all through the af- on to win has aroused suspicion. To put the case at its least sensational, selecting and judging are insufficiently transparent justice is not being seen to be done. "The whole thing is a sham" is Milton Willis' more dramatic way of putting it.

"The concept is fantastic. I don't question the idealism or the memory of Eddie. But let's take the sheepskin off the wolf here - people are being duped." Quiksilver sportswear stand to make an immense

amount of money out of this: event, even though it happens so rarely. The North Shore is: quick to criticise what they see as minimum investment, maximum hype.

Tellingly, two of Quiksil ver's living legends are flying. were there, having flown in out to Australia, despite from other islands, Califor- promising lows stacking up all nia and Australia to be here the way to Alaska. One of the for the hig day. But the fact sceptics spoke for a large is that the Willis Brothers, constituency when he said North Shore veterans who that "Word is they don't want. haven't been given a shot by to have any part of the mon-

Big husiness and big

# Henman manages to hold off Australia's new hero

Tim Henman yesterday record- set before the set went into a tie-

ond successive year. Henman won 7-6, 7-5 and will now meet the Slovakian Karol Kucera, who came from behind two more match points two to beat Michael Tebbutt 4-6, games later and although Rafter 7-6, 6-0. Henman traded four was able to save the first, on the breaks of serve with the US second he volleyed a return out Open winner from 1-1 in the first to give Henman victory.

ed one of the best wins of his ca- break, which he won 7-5. At the reer in beating the world No 2, start of the second set, however, Pat Rafter of Australia, in Rafter broke Henman's serve straight sets to reach the Sydney and at one stage led 4-2. But the International final for the sec- British No 2 broke back to level at 4-4 before squandering his first match point at 4-5.

Henman held on and earned

"I'm very pleased to have beat- of the day I won and that's the en Pat Rafter in front of his most important thing." home fans. With him being US Open champion and No 2 in the the first Grand Slam of the year, world it's a hig win for me, and but has high hopes of going far it's a hig boost to my confidence in a tournament which he exit-

I could have served a little bit a Grand Slam," he said.

Henman said afterwards: more consistently, but at the end Henman is unseeded for

going into the Australian Open." cd at the third-round stage 12 Henman never allowed months ago. "I'm pretty happy Rafter to seltle into any sort of with the way things are going. rhythm and he admitted the I couldn't have any complaints quality of his returns won him whether I win or lose tomorrow, the match. "I would say perhaps so it's a good way to come into

face a qualifier in the first round of the Australian Open, as is the British No 1, Greg Rusedski, who is seeded five.

Rusedski also won yesterday, beating Austria's Thomas Muster 6-3, 7-6 in the Kooyong Classic. The win was Rusedski's first in three matches at the event, in which he, Pete Sampras and Muster were reduced to the consolation group. Sampras, ena, losing 6-2, 6-1 to Arantxa however, slumped to his second Sanchez Vicario.

Henman has been drawn to defeat in three days, losing 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, to Andrei Medvedev. Mark Philippoussis won a thrcc-set battle with Gustavo Kuerten Io reach today's final of the tournament, where he will play Andre Agassi.

Venus Williams reached the Sydney International final, beating Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-I, 7-6, but an all-Williams final was not to be, her sister, Ser-

Might coun

ermany st

The same of the same Application and the second 

berg and it. the major and a second diameters and has parchase and the parcha galof tout - ... Ruman Francisco

an placing with a second The and it I did a file Curle Merchant Santa Rechlemen Name of the The falls of the old England to the last last

John Street Live Committee Committee

**ICE SKATING** 

CRICKET

# **England battling** heat and bounce

England's cause in trying conditions against Jamaica at Montego Bay yesterday.

Atherton, the model of concentration, batted through sticky heat during the first session of the opening tour march for 26, as England reached 53 for 1 from 33 overs, losing Alec Stewart in the fourth over for a single. Stewart attempted to leave a nasty lifting ball from O'Neil Richards, hut could not drop his hand in time and the ball flew straight to Gareth Breese at second slip.

The early bounce was unpredictable and with long grass on the bumpy outfield, runs were at a premium. Atherton took time on a couple of occasions to prod the pitch with suspicion - and with justification. Some balls shot through below the knee, while others lifted and it was hardly the surface England desired on their first senous day of cricket in the

England A attempt to begin the

Sri Lankan leg of their winter

opening warm-up match against

ty good team spirit so far and

that is going to be vital when we

get into the game because they

come thick and fast now,"

Preparations have been ham-

pered by the whole party suf-

fering in the hot, humid climate

over the past four days of net

"We have struck up a pret-

the President's XI here.

Knight counts on team spirit

Mike Atherton diligently served rive. John Crawley lifting along to 15 for I. Crawley Breese over midwicker.

Time and again, Atherton and Crawley had to fend down rising defiveries, and were also obliged to keep out ankleheight balls as Kirk Powell and Richards worked up a lively pace with the new ball on a track that gave them plenty of encouragement.

The pitch hegan to look easier when the spin pairing of Breese and Brian Murphy were bowling in tandem before the interval.

Atherton had to survive a couple of scares. When he was on just one, a lifter from Powell boomed off his gloves just short of the slip cordon and before Crawley had faced a ball, the captain jabbed Powell just beyond the desperate grasp of Leon Garrick at short leg.

aged 32 and out of the Test team Crawley was called on to keep down a couple of balls for the past two years, will play which lifted disconcertingly, a major role in the first Test and on two occasions pushed given the absence of the injured the ball off his gloves close to Darren Gough, while Stewart England's only boundary of short leg. In the 14th over, seems set to open the batting the session took 28 overs to ar- with England managing to edge with Atherton, with Jack Rus-

sell keeping wicket. David Lloyd, the England coach, said: "It's fair to say we've declared our hand, but nothing is set in stone. There is still room Nick Knight yesterday under- practice. Until now the bowlers for manoeuvre and no one is left lined the value of team unity as have been restricted to hour- out, "

proved that his reflexes were in

good working order by keeping

out a sharp ball from Powell.

a decision which at least guar-

antees England two innings in

the first of their two warm-up

matches for the First Test

against West Indies at Sahina

Park in Kingston, which starts

on 29 January.

Crawley's selection, plus the

choice of Adam Hollioake at No

6. gave the first real hint of the

side England may field in the se-

ries' opening match. The bowl-

ing department carried the

same indication, with Andy

Caddick, Dean Headley and

Angus Fraser sharing the fast

bowling duties, with Middlesex

left-armer Phil Tufnell the sole

It looks as if Fraser, now

Atherion had won the loss,

long spells, while the batsmen have had 20-minute work-outs tour with victory in today's in the nets to conserve energy. England are delaying nam-Extras (05) ...... Total (for 1, 33 overs) . ing their side until the morning

when they have had a chance to Fall: 1-2 To bat: N Hussam, G P Thorpe, A J Hollioake, †R C Russell, A R Caddick, D W Headley, A R C Praser, P C R Tutnell. inspect the police ground pitch although the all-rounder Dougie Bowling: Powel 5-1-7-0; Richards 5-4-4-1, Williams 8-5-6-0; Breese 10-0-24-0; Murphy 4-0-7-0. Brown is certain to play having not featured in a competitive

Jamaica: L. V Garrick, R. G. Samuels, W. W. Hinds, \*J. C. Adams, M. D. Ventura, T. O. Powell, L. R. Williams, †A. N. Coley, B. S. Mur-phy, K. Powell, O. Richards,

Umpires: S A Buckner and C Fletcher. - David Field, Montego Bay



months with a viral infection, glides to victory in the short programme at the European Figure Skating Championships in Milan yesterday Photograph; Reuters

### **Europe retains** Ryder status quo

Hardly a day went by prior to the last Ryder Cup when someone did not call for a change in the European team selection procedure. As Andy Fameli reports, the winning, and whining. formula remains largely unchanged.

Seve Ballesteros, the victorious Ryder Cup captain, may have got everything his own way at Valderrama, but he has failed in his attempt to change the selection procedure for the European team to defend the Cup in Brookline in 20 months' time.

In his letter of resignation as captain to the Ryder Cup Committee, Ballesteros called for points to be collected only in the year of the match, for only the top 15 in each tournament to earn points and for the captain to have four wild card choices. None of those proposals have been accepted. Instead, the Cup Committee has endorsed the views of the players own Tournament Committee and the European Tour's board of directors for the system of 10 automatic qualifying places and two wild cards to remain.

Since Europe has won the last

ning formula. It has also been a whining formula. Such was the disquiet last year a ballot on whether Ballesteros should be given more picks mid-term was ruled nut noily on legal grounds.

One change in the regulations requires the two wild card picks to be members of the European tour. This would have ruled not Jesper Parnevik, a member of the US Tour, last year.

However, players who qualify for all four major championships and the three new World Championship events in 1999 will be able to include them in their minimum of 11 tournaments needed for tour membership. Such a player need only then play m four other tour events.

Prize-money from the new World Matchplay Championship in February 1999 will be counted for Ryder Cup points, and for the first time from '99 money from the US Open, the USPGA and all the World Championship events will be included on the European Order of Merit.

By keeping the basic system, the Cup Committee have left themselves open for a repeat of the scenario last year whereby a player, Miguel Angel Martin, due to lack of form and injury, made only one cut in the last three months of the qualifying. Ballesteros's successor will be announced prior to the start of the qualifying period in September.

two matches, it has proved a win-

SAILING

### Smith looks to Geake

marked to coach Great Britain : The British yacht Silk Cut has in a Test series in Australia, or 1 rung the changes in its crew a triangular tournament also: again by appointing the Whitinvolving New Zealand, in bread Round the World Race veteran Vincent Geake as its new navigator.

The 35-year-old Geake will fly to Australia in February to : replace Steve Hayles from the work out the international cal- start of the fifth leg of the race, endar for the coming season. , which leaves Auckland on 1 Feb-He will invite representatives ruary. Geake sailed with the Silk to see the club put into cold of Super League Europe and . Cut skipper, Lawrie Smith, in

Geake had been commentating on the race for television hefore yesterday's call-up from Great Britain coach last year, executive, Neil Tunnicliffe, Smith, who said: "It was time for said: "We are absolutely de-, a change, fresh ideas and a fresh approach. Vincent has sailed ment in Australia and we are: with me on several other events

> Silk Cut, which is now in seventh place, also drafted in Gerard Mitchell in place of Neil - Dave Hadfield Graham on Thursday.

HOCKEY

Knight said.

### Germany stop Rott from helping Southgate

Tomorrow's restart of the Na- they should still secure a tional League season after the over Barford Tigers. Christmas break could be sig-

son on German student Eiker er - has decided not to return Rott, but he has been called into after Christmas at home. Surthe German World Cup squad biton were also hoping to weland is not available. However, come back Gareth Notton from

match since the Sharjah final

three weeks ago. David Nash has

been given the wicketkeeping

- Myles Hodgson, Colombo

role ahead of Chris Read.

South African goalkeeper movements of overseas players. from Old Loughtonians' line-up Southgate, currently in third at Doncaster, while his compaplace, had pinned their hopes triot, Surbiton's Greg Nicol for the second half of the sea- the League's leading goalscor-

Old Georgians, but he too has

Cannock entertain Reading, whose defensive crisis has forced them to recall Charlie

eight while Riders beat London

RUGBY LEAGUE

### **Uncertainty for Goodway** Opinion is divided at Wigan also among the candidates for Goodway remains ear-

over the prospect of the Great the job and there are those at Britain coach, Andy Goodway, Central Park who favour such rejoining his old club as No 2 to John Monie. Goodway is among the ap-

about his opposite number. plicants for the job of running the club's reserve side and helping Monie with the senior James leads Thames Valley Tigers into the final at Shoffield squad. Monie, who gave Goodway

his start in coaching by putting him in charge of the Academy But Donewald caused upset at team when he was still a playnewspaper article that James er at Central Park, is known to went behind the back of Bett to want his old ally back alongside him. The two are firm friends and the combination of their talents would make Wigan's drive to reassert themselves as Britain's premier club look more determined

> than ever. Another former Wigan player, the ex-Great Britain full-back Steve Hampson, is to take place.

an appointment, as they feel that Goodway, as an incumbent national coach, would be overqualified for an assistant's role.

He was in charge at Oldham until being sacked midway through last season. He then took over at Paris, steering them clear of relegation only leaving him without a job at club level.

Goodway was appointed suffering a 2-1 series defeat by Australia. He is also scheduled to be at the helm for the World Cup this autumn, although reorganisation in Australian rugby means that the tournament is now unlikely

November.

The Rugby League's chairman. Sir Rodney Walker, is to . storage for the 1998 season. the First and Second Division; the 1989-90 race on Rothmans. Association to join him on the

The League's acting chief lighted with the rapprochegoing into discussion with and I know he'll fit in very well." them, not just for this season but over long-term plans covering the next eight years."

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

 Fina are cowards. They are flickering, fluttering badge-wearers with no authority. They test for five when they know there are 25 substances. Mark Spitz. on swimming's world governing body following the growth hormone affair

 I don't see how Kevin could have done anything wrong. They all wear gumshields, so how on eerth can anyone have made an injury like that with a gumshield in? Anne Yates sticks up for her son, the Bath prop in the eerbiting affair.

 We're in trouble if they ban blood sports. Slogan on poster advertising Bath Rugby Club (issued before

### SPORT ON THE INTERNET

### In-vision scorecard while you work

It might not surprise you to know that Argentina won the South American Cup last year, beating Brazil along the way. but it would if you knew it was a cricket competition.

The biennial tournament involves Chile, Peru, Brazil and Argentina and a report on Argentinian cricket is to be found in Googler's Gazette, the on-line magazine arm of Criclufo. the major cricket website. Cricinfo was the first major cricket Internet site and has evolved from a well-run amateur site to a thoroughly professional site covering cricket world-wide. In its own way it is the ideal model for a website with a nonparochial view of its sport and with knowledgeable and com-

A glance at CricInfo's home page will remind you that it is not just England that are on tour, but Zimbabwe are visiting Sri Lanka, India are playing Pakistan and Australia are playing South Africa and New Zealand in a one-day series and the Under-19 World Cup is in progress.

Cricinin is providing ball-by-ball information on all the international games and you can even get commentary via ABC on the World Series game between New Zealand and South Africa in Perth. The ABC site leads with a picture of Neville Oliver, who heads a commentary team full of familiar Test Match Special names.

The Sporting Life site is doing ball-by-ball coverage of every England game in the West Indies. You can also get a desktop scorecard for the corner of your screen which updates automatically, so you can keep in touch while you get on with your work. If you want to view England's tour from a home point of view, there are various unofficial West Indies sites.

Cricinfo also has very good statistics and sections on each Test-playing country, while Coopers & Lyhrand have a site for their international ratings. Repeated attempts to load the Lord's site failed - another success by one of English sport's organising bodies to rank alongside the Rugby Football Union and the Football Association. Well done the MCC.

### **ADDRESSES**

Cricinio - http://www-uk.cricket.org/

Sporting Life -- http://www.sporting-life.com/cricket/tour/news/ Australian Broadcasting Corporation - http://www.abc.net.au/

cricket/default.htm Unofficial West Indies site - http://www.geocities.com/ Colosseum/6165/

Sky Television - http://www.sky.co.uk/windies/

Coopers & Lybrand Ratings - http://www.uk.coopers.com/coopers/cricketratings/ Lord's - http://lords.msn.com/ (for information only)

changed his mind.

Meanwhile. Chelmsford's nificantly influenced by the Brian Myburgh will be missing two South Africans. Mike Cullen and Justin King, have returned and will he in the team to meet Harleston Magpies.

Oscroft from retirement.

**Badminton** 

Basketball

Bowls

Cricket

Football

MEN'S ELIROLEAGUE Second phase: Group E: Olympiakos Praeus (Gri 90 Crostie Spir 79, Maccala 19/Avv 88 Porto (Por 83 Group F: Es-tudantes Macnd 78 CSX A Moscov 85 Benetton Tresso (I) 65 Real Macnd 56 Group G: Burcelona 77 Alba Benin 78 Group H: Chone Zagreb (Cros) 81 Happel Jerusalem 78

SECOND TEST (Colombo, third day): 2/m5xb-we won toss-

ZIMBABWE - First Innings 251. SRI LANKA - First Innings 225.

SHI DUNKA - PICS Immigs - ZHIBABIWE - Second Immings
[Overnight 24 to 1]
G. Herwig & Kathwelterama b De Sava
G. W. Flower b Jangsburys
A Whatesi - Tillakantine b De Sava
M. Goodwan b Jayassurya
M. Goodwan b Jayassurya
G. Whittasi - Sayassurga b Murakurama

M Goodwin b Jayasunye G Whital c Jayasunye G Whital c Jayasunderu b Muraldharan 14 Flower not out.

A D R Campbel c Kalandharan b Anuresin C B Wistert not out.
Extras (b5 wt not)
Total (lor 6)
Fall (conti): 234 3-104, 4-107, 5-129, 6-204
Fall (conti): 234 3-104, 4-107, 5-129, 6-204
The Pushpalkurusra 8-1-34-0. De Shr

land have also agreed to play

Towers in the semi-linals.

were too high.

Golf

BASKETBALL

Paul James.

War of words

mars build-up

The huild-up to the Sainsbury's

Classic Cola National Cup Fi-

nal, has been soured by com-

ments from the Leicester City

Riders coach. Bob Donewald.

Arena, after taking over from

Mick Bett during the summer.

both clubs by insinuating in a

They are the only two clubs

in the league not to have met this

season and both come into the

final as underdogs, Tigers clim-

inating the holders. Greater

London Leopards, in the last

have him ousted at Tigers.

- Richard Taylar SPORTING DIGEST

Terpo C-3 bi kyokulenho (4-2) Kotoryu (4-2) bi foporo (3-3) Kotorazuma (3-3) bi Asanceho (3-3) Milozuma (3-3) bi Asanceho (3-3) Milozuma (3-3) bi Makanco (4-2) i Yerreto (4-3) bi Halando (1-4) Gormonale (4-2) bi Sheshma (3-3) Mirathigi (3-3) bi Hamancashma (4-2) bi Hotoraum (3-3), Chayotaka (3-3) bi Aoportu (3-4), Tamakasuga (3-3) bi Abrochu (3-3) bi Aoportu (4-4), Tamakasuga (3-3) bi Abrochu (3-3) bi Abrochu (4-2) bi Marcahan (3-3) kotorathia (3-3) Taktarohia (3-3) Marcahan (3-4) bi Makancama (3-4) bi Makancama (3-4) bi Makanchana (3-4) bi

Were Too high.

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Rearranged fixtures: Tue 27 Jani: Maccle-field v
Singings from 3 Jani: Wed 4 Feb; Modie-brough
v Transner from 2 Jani: Tue 17 Feb; Cardill v
Mendfield from 24 Jani
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Harp National
League of Ireland Premier Division: Dundal-0
Denry Cay: Unifed Sussac County League First
Division: Langrey Sports 2 Whilehasis 2 BOB HOPE CHRYSLER CLASSIC (Bermude Danes, Call) Leading second-round scores (US unless stated): 130 B Leiche 65 65 131 A Magee 35 69 122 D Dunes 65 67 S Call 65 67 133 B Tway 65 68 B McCallister 66 67, P H Horgan 68 65 134 H Sutton 68 66 F Couples 64 70 M O'Means 67 67 S Gump 66 68 B Fabel 64 70 Ice skating

Rallying Rallying
PARIS-DAKAR RALLY 14th stage (358km, Tidligh to Batz, Mauritania): Carte. 18 Saby (F), Minsakesh) 6th 32mm 26sec 2 K Shakesha Japan,
Missucenh 41 59 3.14 Fortnessy (F), Minsakesh) 6th 32mm 26sec 2 K Shakesha Japan,
Missucenh 41 59 3.47 Fortnessy (F), Missucenh 41 55, 5
H Missuch Japan Missuch 41 25 T 6-H, Schlesser (F) Buggy) +1.50.39, 7 Missuchmar (Ge.
Buggy) +1.50.39, 7 Missuchma

Rugby Union Saracents Tetley's Bitter Cup fifth-round be against Lecester at Vicarege Road next Saturday will kick off at 2.30pm and will be screened live by Sky TV.

 Largesunys (P-9-43-2.
WORLD SERRIES (Perm, WA): South Africa 233
or 7 Li H Kalls Th, New Zealand 166 South Africa
won by 67 nuns.
SHEPFIELD SHIELD (Second day of laur) Ho-bert: South Australia 26-4 Li D Seddons 105 C R
Millor 6-64: Itemmena 303 for 2 ID F Hills 52 not
out, J Cox 73 Skiing Skiing
WORLD CUP MEN'S DOWNHILL (Wange Swift: 1 h Maer (Aut 1 mm 4485econds, 2 Burin (Fr) 1 455\* 3 A Scrifterer (Au) 1 456 4 h Rouges (Au) 1 456 GB: 44 G Bed 1 4830 Overall World Cut 1 4516 GB: 44 G Bed 1 4830 Overall World Cut 1 4516 GB: 44 G Bed 1 4830 Overall World Cut 1 4516 GB: 44 G Bed 1 4830 Overall World Cut 1 4516 GB: 44 G Bed 1 4830 Overall World Cut 1 4516 GB: 45 F March 1 4516 GB: 451

The Republic of Ireland are to play Argentina in a friendly international at Lansdowna Road, Dublin, on 22 April. Mick McCarthys team have also arranged games against the Crech Republic in Prague on 25 March and Mexico in Dublin on 23 May. REGAL WELSH OPEN (Newport, Gwent) First round: B Jones Bigg of C Scanton (Engl S-7 P Hursen (Engl S-7 P Wykes) Engl S-7 P Dave (Engl of C MacCalvary) (Scol S-2 S reverse (Engl D-8 Carlos (Engl S-3, 1 Burnett (Scol ) or 1 Woodman (Engl w.o., J.Johnson (Engl of L Carlán (Engl w.o. Northern Iraland have agreed to play a friendly against Romania in Bu-charest on 30 May. They then play Spain in Santander on 3 June. North-Sumo

Snooker

a B international against the Republic of Ireland all Tolka Park, Dublin, on Ti February 11; but a proposed frendly against Colombia in Beltast on 25 March has failen through because the Parkth Assistant (Applicable Assistant). South Americans' financial demands Swimming

SWITTMING
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Perth. WA) MEN100m butterfly fine! 1 M kim (Aus) \$225ec21 Friderice (Swell 52.7° 3 G Hungil (Aus) \$225ec21 Friderice (Swell 52.7° 3 G Hungil (Aus) \$250
8 final: 1 J Hebman (GB) \$395 25 Karrsen (Neth5395 3 N Watter (US) \$105, CA7-10 quality (aama final 5 Pain (IRE) \$536, 200m breastroke
final 1 k Gore (US) \$105, CA7-10 quality (aama final 5 Pain (IRE) \$536, 200m breastroke
final 1 k Gore (US) \$140, 2 J-5 Samm (Fri 2 33-2 3 N Rosse (Hun) 2 1359 WOMEN: 200m
individual madely final: 1 Var (Arman Chi 2 108)
2 Chen Yan (Chi) 2 13-6 3 M Moravorus (Storal)
7 1425 B final; 1 O Verkuka (Rus) 2 1828-2 Y
layma (Iappan) 2 Chy 3 S Roth (GB) 2 77-33
44700m medity relainy final; 1 United States
4 0193 2 Australia 4 0522, 3 kpcm 4 0627, 4 Germany 4 0890, 5 khungy 4, 1141, 6 Netherlands
4 1173 7 Great Britain (S Price J King, C Foot,
5 Rotph 4 1333 Decoublied Belgium, 10n
synchronised diving final: 1 United States
2 Chye 275-54 3 United States 2556-6 Whiter polic
final: Hally 7 Notherlands 6 Bronze model play-

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of days that Spain's bid to host the 2003 rugby union World Cup lasted. The Spanish tederation applied on Wednesday but were advised to go instead for the 2001 World Cup Sevens.

Semennik (Morth, qualifier v T Henman (GB), M Craca (Ger) v qualifier. N Ridder (Ger) v qualifier. M Rebaul (Aus) v M Ribpain (Un), W Black (Clim) v B Siever (Ma) v M Ribpain (Un), W Black (Clim) v B Siever (Ma) v M CHANG (US), T M MSTER (Aus) v M Carlsen (Men) v M CHANG (US), T M MSTER (Aus) v M Grand (Ger) v M Alamin (Morth R Furfam (I)) y J Alonso (Sp), J Stokenberg (Aus) v M Ribcs (Sp), Qualifier v J Repeat (See) v J Repeat (See) v J Anoman Marin (Sp), G Stational (Sa) v M RibCs (Critic), A COSTA (Sp) v T Hassa (See), qualifier v A Agassi (US) Q Gross (Ger) v M-K Goether (Ger), A Gaudrat (III) v Q Peatrum (Hom), A Berteadqua (Sp) v qualifier, I Smith (Aus) v A Medivedier (Ulo), J Sanchez (Sp) v T Marin (US), A Medivedier (Ulo), J Sanchez (Sp) v T Marin (US), A Medivedier (Ulo), J Sanchez (Sp) v T Marin (US), T Sango (US) v P RAFTER (Aus).

WOMER: M HMAGS (Swit) v W Prober (Ger), 8 Ritter (Ger) v qualifier, P (He) v P (He) v

va (Beka) v S APPELMANS (Beh, S TESTUD (Fr) v G Leon-Garcia (Sp), J Kandar (Ger) v S Drake-Brockman (Aust, J Husarova (Sovaid v H Incue) Lupeni, M Maleeve (Bu) v A Gene (Cz Rep.) T Iansaugen (Thai) v M A Venic (Vent, E Wegner (Ger) v J Watmande (US), R Stubbs (Aust) v M Lupeni (Ger) v J Watmande (US), R Stubbs (Aust) v M Lupeni (Croa), N Sawernstou (Alepani v I MAJOU (Croa), S PRILEA (Renni v S Wijarer (US), A Moureston (Fr) v S Farris (B), E Gaginard (Moni v S Piesthie (Aut), Wang Shahing (Ra) v 1 Germannan (Aust) v S Piesthie (Aut), Wang Shahing (Ra) v 1 Germannan (Aust) N Deby (Fr) v P Schryder (Swit), S Depter (Aut) v N Behyel (Leon), N Preti (Aust) V L Remannan (Aust), N Behyel (Special Moni (Moni v S Piesthie (Aust) v P Mechalian (Aust), N Behyel (Special Moni (Moni V S Piesthie (Aust) v P Mechalian (Aust), N Behyel (Sovai) v P Demisor (Aust) v P Maderian (Aust) V L DAVENPORT (US). Diversion (CSI 15 A. 29 - 20 Waterie (USI by M Matekeys (EM) 6-2 6-2 A Samchez Vicasio (Sp) bt N Zverevol (Bull 6-1 6-2 Senni finalata: A Senchez Vicano (Sp) bt N Swilliams (US) 5-2 6-1; V Williams (US) bt A Sugyerna (Lapan) 6-1 7-6 BELLSOUTH MEN'S OPEN (Auclidem), M2 Sanai-finalata M Rice (Chile) bt B Black (Zim) 8-1 6-3. R Fromberg (Aus) bt B Hack (Zim) 8-1 6-3. R Fromberg (Aus) bt G Karcten (Br) 6-3 6-7 6. Lovers' play-offic G Rusedski (ISB) bt T Mustar (Aut) 6-3 7-6. A Medivedev (Uro) bt P Sampras (US) as 6-3 6-2
TASMAMIAN WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Hobert, Aus) Semi-finalata (V Van Poort (Bet) bt M Graybovellata (Po) 6-7 6-1 6-2.

AROUND THE RESORTS

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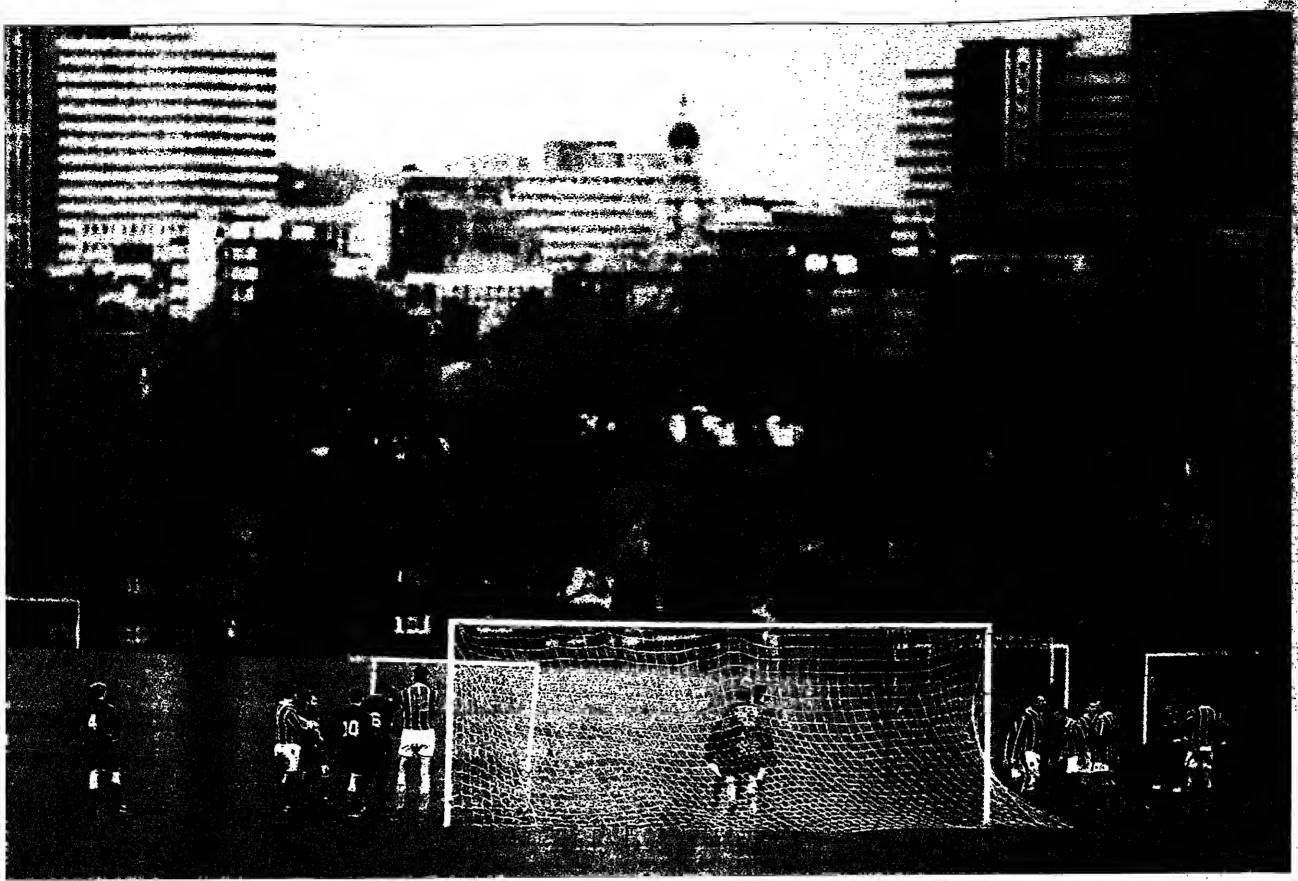
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# Park life pleasures on the fields of dreams

On Saturdays and Sundays throughout the winter the dreams, fantasies, aspirations and frustrations of men and women of all sbapes, sizes, creeds and religions are played out on the parks football pitches of Britain. There are over 42,000 clubs affiliated to the Football Association in England alone and only 39 of them are professional, so for the vast majority it is a pitch like this that is home for the day. It was on a pitch like this that John Barnes was spotted by Watford, playing for Sunbury Court and no doubt dreaming of the day he would run through the entire Brazilian defence to score at the Maracana Stadium. And of course it was a pitch like this at Hackney Marshes, famous the world over as a parks venue, that Kenny Dalglish had in mind when he issued his FA Cup challenge to Stevenage Borough.

world over as a parks venue, that Kenny Dalglish had in mind when he issued his FA Cup challenge to Stevenage Borough.

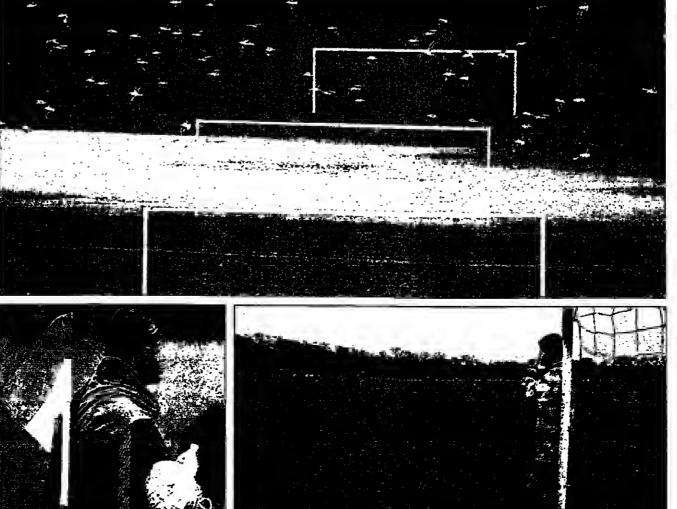
In its beyday Hackney Marshes housed 120 pitches side by side – today there are 88. As two teams come off two more go on, with well over 100 club matches taking place on a typical Sunday. It was there that Terry Venables played his schools football, more recently David Beckham and just about any footballer from London will have played at Hackney Marshes at some time in their youth. The St John Ambulance is always on hand and at many of the other parks venues up and down the country, while scouts from the professional clubs patrol the touchlines looking for the next John Barnes. But with 5,000 sports grounds sold for development to the private sector since 1981, the now 34-year-old Barnes may not be the only endangered species in British football.

— Adam Szreter



### **PHOTOGRAPHS** BY PETER JAY







priously motivate boot to its hallows portocies. As the K yites ear-bicing aft and Chief Justice.

Bath ba

12,000 expec Gordies will watch mar Premiership down with Bath reports, their dize to get to gr diferenty Guscott

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with confidence garanger, lake on TETETAL Book is

The state of the s ditim managar

CHRIS MAUME

D FIXT

# Case of try, try, try again for Twickenham's conscience

If the law is an ass, rugby's new breed of litigiously motivated lawyers are queueing up to apply a well-aimed boot to its hallowed buttocks. As the Kevin Yates ear-biting affair moves into its second week, Chris Hewett talks to Twickenham's very own

It was not an auspicious beginning. "I was a solicitor until they struck me off," said Roy Manock, the Rugby Football Union's disciplinary officer, irreverently known to players and coaches alike as "His Old Fariship". There was a theatrical silence as Manock savoured the impact of his words, followed

Lord Chief Justice.

by a mischievous chuckle. "Actually. I applied to he struck off for sound financial reasons when I decided I'd had emough of my legal consultancy work. There was no scandal, I'm afraid."

Phew. The climate of professional rugby being as it is the legal adviser has joined the agent and the personal masseuse in the modern player's holy trinity of support staff - the last thing the game needs is a dodgy brief in control of its court system. In fact, Manock takes his rote extremely seriously, so seriously, in fact, that he has written an appendix to the RFU's disciplinary rules ural justice as they pertain to the 15-man code.

There are those who wonder whether rugby union and natural justice might not be mutually exclusive. Nick Pop-

prop, managed to pick up three separate convictions for the same punching offence last spring - a yellow card from the referee, a fine from his club and a ban from Manock's panel while this season, a second Newcastle player, Dean Ryan. collected a ban that was so retrospective as to border on the

And now we have the Kevin Yates affair, which has propelled the sport so deeply into the tegal mire that it would be no surprise to see George Carman, Perry Mason and Horace Rumpole fighting each other for setting out the principles of nat- a piece of the action. The absence of a smoking gun - or, in this case, a set of exposed incisors - is not the only fly in this particular jar of ointment. By comparison, the Jarndyce v Jarndyce wrangle in Charles

plewell, the Irish international Dickens' Bleak House seems positively straightforward.

Victor Ubogu is threatening to bring a defamation action against London Scottish, who are in turn wondering whether surgeon, might not have stepped out of line by questioning whether Simon Fenn's left ear was bitten at all. Bath are bristling at suggestions that, in the absence of a guilty verdict, the RFU might impose sanctions on the club rather than on any one individual, while the suspended Yates is receiving legal

advice on an hourly basis. "I'm reluctant to talk about specific case in progress," said Manock in time-honoured legal fashion, "However, I can say that the onus is on London Scottish to prove their case against the player concerned. They've made the allegation, af- are acting so responsibly - hut

proof is not one of beyond reacases, but on the balance of probabilities. We will consider video evidence and player statements and make a judgement based on what we find."

Manock's panel will consider the affair from scratch, even though Bath are scheduled to hold their own internal disciplinary hearing on Tuesday. What, pray, is the point of Yates going through two interrogatory ordeals rather than one? "It's a matter for Bath," said Manock. "We will look at this irrespective of what they decide to do. No. I don't think the Bath hearing is a total irreleuseful exercise in discovering exactly what happened and any-

this is a serious matter that has tarnished the image of the you're on the telly." game and left a false impression as to the standards of discipline in rugby in general."

All the same, there appears to be more than a degree of duplication. Although Manock's panel, an ad hoc band of legally articulate regulars and co-opted occasionals, considers each and every sending off involving a player from the two Allied Dunbar Premiership divisions and the top two divisions of the Jewson National League, they are often happy to rubberstamp the internal punishments meted out by club managements. On the other hand, they sometimes intervene more fulvance - it could prove a very ly, particularly in cases where gross misdeeds have been perpetrated in the presence of the way. I applaud the fact that they great god, television, A clear case, surely, of: "Throw a punch

"I appreciate the situation is

seen as being haphazard, but the system is evolving and when I took on this job two years ago I stated that the revision of our disciplinary procedures would take four years to complete. The decisions to act in the Popplewell and Ryan cases were mine. I considered them particularly bad incidents that occurred in the full glare of publicity and that as such they harmed the game. Should we let miscreants off the hook, just because other misdemeanours go unnoticed?

"A number of areas need addressing. There is a great body of opinion in the southern hemisphere against the current restrictions on citing [players can be cited only if the incident was not dealt with by the referee] and I am coming

round to the view that suspensions should be calculated in terms of matches rather than days and that a certain number of yellow cards should carry a fixed penalty. These are things I want to discuss with the clubs.

"But the panel's powers are already extremely wide. Provided a hearing is conducted fairly and in line with the dictates of natural justice. I am perfectly happy that any sanctions we choose to impose are insustainable under both English and European law."

There will almost certainly come a time when that last assertion is tested to the full. You sense that Manock would relish such a challenge to his authority; he happily compares his panel to "the old touring assizes" and rather like a certain Judge Jeffries, he is no onc's idea of a soft touch.

# Bath banking on Guscott's return

Almost 12,000 expectant Geordies will watch Newcastle's Allied **Dunbar Premiership** showdown with Bath tomorrow. But, as Chris Hewett reports, their side will have to get to grips with Jeremy Guscott.

Under any other circumstances, it would be billed as an occasion to get the teeth into. Newcastle. brimming with confidence and unbeaten swagger, take on Bath, still reeling from the effects of another traumatic week in the sporting dock but invigorated by the return of Jeremy Guscott to should reveal pretty much everything about both clubs.

Such is the interest in tomorrow's encounter that Newcastle have abandoned their trusty Kingston Park hometistead and taken up temporary residence at the Gateshead International Stadium.

Guscott's presence should put another thousand or so on the gate; England are so desperate to welcome him back into the international fold that the enine lwickenham hierarchy will just to make sure the Golden cause of the bruised right shoul-One is as fit as everyone hopes. der he has been carrying for Even Tony Swift, the embattled Bath chief executive who had just endured a hellish week on the keep him out of Saracens' home ear-hiting front, managed a match with Sale tomorrow.

smile yesterday, "With Jerry in midfield, we've got a back line to die for," he chirped.

That is undeniably true. Bath can now afford to switch Matt Perry to his England position of full-back, pair Guscott with Phil de Glanville in the centre, run leuan Evans and Adedayo Adebayo on the wings and restore Mike Catt to the standoff berth in what amounts to an attacking payload of rugby nitroglycerine just waiting to explode. All they need is the hall.

Which is, of course, the problem. Newcastle's one-paced but highly capable pack have been a revelation this season and with Ross Nesdale, Garath Archer, Pat Lam and Dean Ryan in such combative form, it : their midfield, in a match that is difficult to see how Bath can: achieve parity in the bump and grind department. "What has happened at Bath in the last week is something for them to . deal with, but I'm sure it will make them all the more determined." Roh Andrew, Newcastle's director of rugby, said.

Although Guscott is once again in the Test equation, the England selectors will be concerned at the absence of Lawrence Dallaglio and Richard Hill from this weekend's activity. Dallaglio misses Wasps' trip probably make the trip north, to Leicester this afternoon beweeks, while Hill's increasingly worrying barnstring problems



Svetlana Serbina (left) and Olena Zhupyna win gold for Ukraine in the synchronised diving Photograph: Reuters

WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Klim completes gold hat-trick

crusade with a record-breaking third victory in Perth yesterday. Klim shattered the hours-old championship record in the 100 metres butof gold medals to go alongside his two silvers.

triumphed in the 200m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle relay, was just 0.1sec outside his own world mark with a winning time of 52.25sec.

That was good enough for Poland-born Klim to take half a second out of the championship record established by his compatriot Geoff Huegill earlier in the day, Huegill, who beat his team-mate in the heats to break a championship best held for a few minutes by Frenchman Franck Esposito, had to settle for bronze in 52.90, with Swe-

"I was feeling quite lethar- the American team. five days," Klim said. "I felt as though I didn't want to work anymore. But I recovered pretty well. And the hutterfly always seems to bring something special out of me. I don't regard myself as one of the greats, I'd probably never look at myself like that, although people looking at the medal table might think that way."

No British swimmers

Michael Klim continued his reached an individual final yes-World Championship medal terday, although James Hickman, fifth in the 200m butterfly. did win the consolation race in the 100m in 53.85.

In the 200m individual medley, Wu Yanyan claimed China's terfly to complete a hat-trick third gold of the championships. breaking former East German Petra Schneider's championship The Australian, who also record set in 1972 by nearly a second in 2min 10.88scc. Chen Yan, winner of China's two other golds, was second with Slovakia's Martina Moravcova

Newcastle's Sue Rolph finished third in the consolation race in a time of 2:17.33, then completed a hat-trick of final appearances this week by taking over the freestyle leg of the 4x100m medley relay from Karen Pickering. The quartet, also including Sarah Price, Jaime King and Caroline Foot, came last, but moved up to sevden's Lars Frolander second in enth when Belgium were disqualified from the race won by

gic this morning after the last Britain only reached the fi nal as the Chinese, shorn of a team because of the drug controversy surrounding four of their swimmers, did not turn up for the event.

American Kurt Grote took gold in the 200m breaststroke by just 0.02sec from Frenchman Jean-Christophe Sarnin, with Hungary's Olympic champion Norbert Rozsa third.

- Ion Gordon, Perth

# Phelps fulminated over slack knees and judging incompetence across the board



**CHRIS** MAUME

**SPORT** 

ON TV

than it is to be genuinely enthusiastic. Sad but true (or and be has been in his pomp at maybe it's just me). But occasionally someone comes along who captures the essence of what sport on television should be about, someone who can tell you all the technical stuff you need to know while conveying

the sheer thrill of the thing. Step up on to the podium Brian Phelps, who, until Greg Louganis banged his bonce in Seoul, was the only diver anyone in this country had heard of (apologies to Liz Ferris, who also won Olympic bronze in Rome in 1960). His main claim to fame these days is as a football reference - "he's a better diver than depth of pike in flight, tight ham-

this to hand out critical kickings coaching with consummate commentating for Eurosport. the World Swimming Championships for the past 10 days.

> As the women prepared for the 10-metre highboard. Phelps' mission to explain was underway (there are forwards, backwards, reverse, inward, twist and armstand groups, and seven judges: the highest and lowest marks are taken off and the average of the rest multiplied by the degree of difficulty, the platform is 16-18 feet long with a cork inlay 3 4in thick - so now you know). And on the dives themselves, it was like attending a masterelass. Take a random example: "Bad

It's always easier in a column like Brian Phelps" - but he combines strings - she needs to do her mobility work - and very short on entry." Each dive was given a similarly crisp shakedown. After an hour. I felt I knew as much

about diving as Phelps himself. He combined the expertise of the coach and the enthusiasm of the fan, fulminating splendidly over the judging. When one woman was given a five, he was beside himself. "A five? Did one judge give her a five there? He did! I can't believe that. The Japanese judge must have been asleep, or he needs to de-steam his glasses. A five!" - he snorted - "It was not possible to give that dive a five." I pictured him standing up, gesturing obscenely at the judges and bellowing. "You're shit-aaaaaah!"

next one up: "They've given her a good set of marks. Not what I would have given her. But there you are - I'm not judging" - this said with a note of regret. In fact, you got the feeling he'd like to he commentating, coaching, judging and diving, if only he

could clone himself. His obsession with the judges' perceived incompetence scared off the scale when Li Chen had her turn, "Slack knees on the take-off," he said, "but it was so high up, the judges probably missed it." One judge, however, gave her a 4.5. "Some weird judging going on here," Phelps said. "Maybe the New Zealand judge saw the slightly bent knees. He's freaking out a

He was a bit happier with the bit. You can't take off that many marks! Not for very slightly slack knees! I'm sure the Chinese coach will have something to say to that judge. I certainly would if it was my diver." I think he was planning to anyway.

I've never seen Jeremy Clarkson before, but he was preceded by a reputation as a hit of a wally. In fact, he came across as a hig kid, which is exactly what a programme like Jerenty Clarkson's Extreme Machines (BBC2) needs (that prefix is a hit dodgy. though - shades of Knowing Me Knowing You Wah Alan Pannidge, and the attendant notion that perhaps Clarkson's head is, as some critics have suggested,

some way up his backside). He was transported this

boat racing-which, he said, "has been likened to standing in the shower tearing up £50 notes." The boats are, as he put it, "essentially flying machines." They do no more than skim the surface, and half the ome ride on a cushion of air hubbles. Clarkson was given a guided tour of one hig red monster with the cut of a Stealth bomber, owned by the Wimhledon FC-owning fish hillionaires and driven by Brit Steve Curtis. "What's the num-

boat so we know whose it is," replied Curtis, encouragingly. Curtis's two world championships have done little to raise

ber for?" he asked, pointing to

a buge "10" on the underside.

"It's for when the boys crash the

week into the world of power- his profile from the z-list in his own land, but then it's not much of a spectator sport. Clarkson watched one boat go by in the middle distance, looked at his watch and said. "Never mind, in another 12 minutes it'll be back." There's no reason. though, why powerboat racing shouldn't work on the box, with its permanent sense of imminent catastrophe, something you just don't get from racing cars.

The principal thrill, of course, is handling the beasis, and Clarkson had a go: "This is incredible. The limit here is five miles per hour. The speedo shows 142. Now I ve got to turn it. How often do you crash

### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

TODAY Football.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Chaltenham v Hadnesford ......

Betond v Silough ...

FA CARLSBERG VASS Fourth nound: Silingham Town v Bodrint: Brandine v Lymington. Citisens v Buryan. Hit Courses Sports v North Perrity: Greet Walesmay Rovers v Polisson et hydrog, Facel Vallesmay Rovers Bar Town. Stochold v Portfaleyer; Sudbury Wandersen v Bedington Ferters: Taurion v Herne Bay, Tavrion v West Audisend; Rov Law Town v Histon. Postpoose Sudbury Ibarn v Burscough. Rythlan LEAGUE Premier Dhiston: Bestington v West Audisend; Rov Law Town v Histon. Postpoose Sudbury Ibarn v Burscough. Rythlan LEAGUE Premier Dhiston: Stortford v Knightonien ist Were); Bronier's v Bersten fall v Barbard, Postpoose Sudburs v Chestern, Herrie Borough v Aylesbury; Hey Erfeld v Order City; Graveserd & Nortflees v Chestern, Herrie Borough v Aylesbury; Hey Erfeld v Order City; Graveserd & Nortflees v Chestern, Herrie Borough v Aylesbury; Hey Erfeld v Bratis v Dallen or Abrigon Town v Withylesset; Berichengton & Stantes; Herripoon v Herrion, Find I Bylesion: Abrigon Town v Withylesset; Berichengton v Stantes; Herripoon v Wellering; Unifor Pervent v Coryctin; Rominor Wallering, Thomas v Medicinia, Wentbley v Molden; Theme v Medicinia, Wentbley v Wolden; Promise V Lebroing Herripoon v Chestrant, Carvey Island v Berstond, Herripoon defended.

Congenery: Workington v Farsley Cettic; Worksop v Stocksbridge.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Prevaler Division: Atherstone v Dorchaster; Burlan Albon v Ashford; Cambridge City v Gloucester; Crawley be Promagnous; Forest Green Rovers v Rottwel; Gressley Rovers v Kings Lynn; Merthyr Tydiff v Hastings; Numeaton v Hatesower Town; St Leonards Sammont v Salesbury; Tameonth v Stringbourne; Workeser City v Bath City Middlend Division: Biston v Paget Rangers; Blackers Wissbech; Corby v Hinckley Utd.; Granthern of Bedworth; Bession v Raunds; Roddin v Sh Rugby; Sollad v Beesfann; Stafford v March of Received Chelmistond v Weston-supe-Mare; Candarlord v Eith & Belveden; Derbit v Cerebrast, Fasham v Waterlooville; Finet v Torchridge, Haward v Margete; Newport (Gwent) v Fisher Afriette. Trowbridge v Newport (Gwent) v Fisher Afriette. Frestham v Victor (Gwent) v Tester Thirdent; Crestham v Stafe Green (20); Sheppey v Hythe; Swartey Furness v Corritham (25); Trownesmead v Lordswood; Turbridge Wels v Rangestele.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bidelord v Pauton Rovers: Broport v Brisnings: Bristol Manor Farm v Torrington: Originariam v Brighwater, Emore v Caine, Cod Down v Mediciner Westbury v Cherd.
NONTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Denaty v Matiby, Gassroughion Welfare v Curzon Astron, Hallam v Brighteniam v Brighteniam Consett Town v Armthorpe Welfare: Sethy v Ossert Ablon: Streffield v Pricerng. Tracking v Pometract Cofferies.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Newbury v Downton, Andower v Totton: Bernerton Heath v Aerostruchures, Christofact i V Gasport, Portseroum Riv East Cowes.

v East Cowes.
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Clacton v Stowmerker, Das v Newmerlest By v Harwich & Parkeston: Gorleston v
Halsman: Great Yammouth v Sonan. Lowestoth v Falsentorm; Warboys v Tiptree: Watton v

ham fied Star v Shoom, South Sheets v entires stock to v RTM Newcastle.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Olvision: Orderester + Hasenam: Hassocke v Peacehwert & Telscombet, Languey Sports v Annoist, Portfield v Fechal; Regimer v Pagtam, Salmean v Selsey Shoreham v Eastbourne Town, Wick v Me Cah.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Chadderton v Bischpool Rower Holker Old Boys v Atherton LR. Mane Road ver Glossov, Mossierv Hasington Nameron v Salfert; Prescott Cables v Remisborrom, Rossentale v St Herrs; Vauland GM v Newcastle Town Warmington v Darwen.
WITERLINK ORRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bridgreyth v Straffed, Organizar v Shifted, Organizar v Remisborrom v Sandwell Borough; Halesowen Hames v Shiffal; Oddory v Rocester, Pelsak Vis v Pusha (Organizar Schore).

Jentoli e Barwell
LIMLISPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE
Pramier Division: Buckingham flown v Hotbeach: Descorough v Yavley: Ford Sports v
Bourne, Long Buckby v Hampston: Protron v Cogasthole, Sit Neots v Stewarts & Lloyds Corby,
Wootton v Wellingborrough League Cup ascund round: Deventry v Eynesbury Third
round: Boston Rown v Northempton Spencer.
Mintees Blackstone v Hightan. Mentees Backstone v regnam
PRESS a JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:
Budde Thistle v Cove Rangers; Clachnacuddin
v Bors Rangers, Fort Wilkiam v Eign, Frisser-burgh v Deveronvalle, Huntily v Kelth, Lessemburth v Fortes Mechanics Nam Cour-ly v Peterhead, Wilds Academy v Rothes,

Ny v Peterhead. Wich Academy v Rothes.
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divisions.
Ballymen's v Glertonan, Calhorwile v Ornson,
Calegrane v Glertonan, Calhorwile v Ornson,
Calegrane v Glertonan, Calhorwile v Ornson,
Calegrane v Ballydare; Lentwady v Lame,
Newry v Dungarnon Switis.
HARP LAGER NATYONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: First Harps v Kilkenny (730, Sigo Rovers v Sherbourne (730).
THE TIMES FA VOUTH CUP Third round: Uverpool v Queens Park Rangers (20). Rugby Union

RUGDY CITION

3 0 unless stated

ALLIED DUMBAR PREMIERSMIP One: Lexaster Vivespe 220. London fran - Pechnonic One: Bedrard v Fylde Gill, Blackheath v London Scotter Gill, Blackheath v London Scotter Gill, Easter - Coventy (20). Chrell - Wash Feld v Wash (20). Rehammar - Modelly (25), Walefeld v Wash (20). Rehammar - Modelly (25), Walefeld v Wash (20). Rehammar - London Welsin (230). Lythey v Marrogane (20). Newtour v What feddel Gill, Didn'y v Pottsyn Park (25). Feading v Leeds (20). Bernogane (30). Worossier v Mortay (230). Two North: Aspatra v Shefmad (230). Bernogham School v Named (230). Bernogham School v Named (230). Preston Grasshoppers v Wirthold (230). Preston Grasshoppers v Wirthold (230). School (230). Perston Grasshoppers v Wirthold (230). School (230). Perston Grasshoppers v Stouthnoge (246). Walsal v Sandal (230).

Rugby League

Cricket

ADNAMS EAST Premier: Cambridge City v Sud-bury, Colchester v Bishops Stortford; Crustyx v Cambridge Univ; Ipsavich v Cactom, Peterfortough Town v Lugor Town

Basketball

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP Final (Shaffield Arena): Women: Sheffield Hatters Tharmes Valley Lady Tigers (12.0). Men: Lacest ice hockey

TOMORROW Football

(20)
HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND
Premier Division: Sharmock Rovers v Drogneta (25); University College Dublin v Cork City (40). Rugby Union

LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Campes Ynys Mon

ALLEO DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE: Bresol V Gloudester (30): Hartsquins v Northampton (30). Newcostie v Sein; (30); (4 Glosschend International Stephum): Seracera v Sale (20). WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY Pool A: Bobw Vale v Tuzaman (Arg.) (20). Pool B: Swansea v Rugby Canada (20). Rugby League

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Play-off: Oldhom v Heworth (3/3).

Hockey

Basketball

# Black market lure for frustrated World Cup fans

With the start of the World Cup still five months away, ticket sales and distribution are already causing problems for the organising committee and fans alike. As the authorities investigate the alleged illegal re-sale of seats, Nick Harris looks at the booming black market.

England supporters wanting to travel to France this summer have limited options for securing seats. Approximately 4,000 tickets for each group match will be available for the Football Association to distribute to their 32,000 travel cluh members.

Appeals made in Paris on Tuesday for more tickets are unlikely to result in more seats for British fans, although it will not be until the end of Fehruary that Fifa, the game's world governing body, will decide how to allocate the maximum of eight per cent of tickets per team set aside for the supporters in each game.

The only chance of any more tickets being available for England fans is if the national federations of Tunisia, Romania and Colombia say they do not require their share.

The other option for fans is to try to huy packages from operators authorised by Fifa, hut demand is so high that applicants who have not already applied are unlikely to be successful.

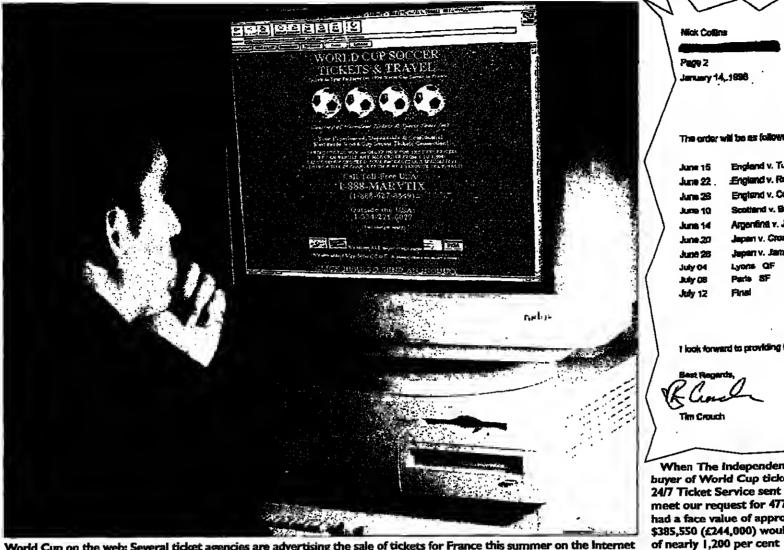
A spokeswoman for the French Organising Committee mainly American agencies sell-(CFO) said yesterday that 2,000 tickets for each group game (as opposed to the eight per cent panies are selling in Britain. figure reported previously) would be sold world-wide by the 17 tour operators authorised by the CFO to do so.

There are five such operators in Europe, three of them in England, and each will receive 100 tickets for each of the 32 group matches, regardless of the teams involved. In addition, they will receive 150 tickets per European team involved.

For the England game against Tunisia the European operators will receive a total of 250 tickets - the 100 basic allowance plus 150 because England are playing and for the England game with Romania they will receive 400 (100 plus 150 for each team). These tickets can then be sold wherever the operators choose, including outside Europe.

Those tickets that are eventually sold to England fans will be in high demand, despite what many will consider to be high prices. Gullivers Sports Travel, one of the three Fifa-approved operators in this country, is asking for £595 for a day trip to one game. Mike Burton Sports Travel estimates a trip to the final will be around £1,500.

Two other means of attempting to huy World Cup tickets are therefore likely to prove attractive to some, even if it means circumventing the system. Either they can disregard the advice of "No ticket, do not travel" and turo up at the games



World Cup on the web: Several ticket agencies are advertising the sale of tickets for France this summer on the Internet

in the hope of buying from a tout, or they can turn to one of the numerous unofficial agents that are starting to emerge. These are ing on the Internet, although there are also reports that com-However, by no means all those agencies advertising on the

Internet are unauthorised, Some Fifa-approved agencies also publicise their authorised ticketand-travel packages on the web. Trading in tickets via unof-

ficial sources is forbidden by the rules of the CFO and is under investigation. The CFO has should not he tempted to pur-

Venue St Denia Montpelier Toulouse Bordeeux

Toulouse Parc Des Princes

match with a ticket purchased from an unauthorised source could be refused entry, on the grounds that there has been a hreach of contract in the terms of sale of the ticket. However, the CFO has said that it does not plan to have systematic identity checks at games, unless they have prior information that certain blocks of tickets have been sold via unauthorised agents.

Unauthorised tickets are being offered on the Internet for England's opening game, on 15 June against Tunisia, for between £174 and £411 each. Tickets for the game against Rowarned the public that they mania on 22 June are on offer at the same price, while tickets chase from unofficial sources. for the game against Colombia Any fan turning up at a on 26 June are being advertised

World Cup finals tickets advertised on one internet site fall into three categories, at all venues except : Jun 22 Toulouse

for Stade de France in Seint Denis, where the opening and final games will be held. This venue will have four ticket categories due to its size. Category One: positioned, in general, between the "end" or "goel" fines. Category Two: positioned, in general, in the vicinity of the corners of the stadium. Category Three: positioned, in general, behind the goals. (Prices are in US clotters)

Brazil v Scotland
Morocco v Norway
Cameroon v Austria
Italy v Chile
Sauci Arabia v Denmark
France v South Africa
Pareguay v Bulgaria
Netherlands v Belgium
Korea v Mexico
Spath v Migeria
Jernaica v Croatia
Yugoslavia v Iran
Argentina v Japan
Germany v USA
Romania v Columbia
England v Tunista
Scotland v Norway
Brazil v Morocco

Sectland v Norway Brazil v Monocco Chile v Austria Italy v Cameroca Frence v Seudi Arabia South Africa v Denmark Nigeria v Bulgaria Spain v Paragutay Netheritands v Korea Belgium v Mexico Japan v Crostie Argentina v Jamaica Germany v Yugoslavia USA v Iran Colombia v Tunisia

between £206 and £475 each. Tickets for the quarter-final that might feature England if they progressed heyond the group stage are being offered at between £206 and £566, while semi-final tickets range from

£269-£946 and tickets for the final are advertised at £775-£3,448 each. The face value of the majority of tickets for the finals is hetween £16 and £40 per match. Some agencies claim they can

provide as many tickets as required, with one advertising on the Intercet that orders from "1 to 1,000" can be met, and another agent saying: "Quantity is not a problem. The disclaimer in the event of the prices going from such sources to fulfil orders could not name for legal rea-

Jun 24 Jun 24 Jun 25

Jun 25 Jun 25 Jun 25

Jun 26 Jun 26 Jun 27

Jun 27 Jun 28 Jun 28

Jun 30

HOW ONE AMERICAN TICKET AGENCY IS ADVERTISING ON THE INTERNET

crazy, we can't guarantee these prices will stay the same."

While The Independent disclosed yesterday that an Atlantahased agency, 24/7 Ticket markets and pay over the odds." Service, claims it is being supplied by Fifa-approved agents, other American agencies advertising on the Internet said their main source of tickets would be those French people who bought blocks of tickets (known as Pass France 98 and comprising of five or six tickets for one venue) in France between November 1996 and April 1997 and who are now willing to sell them to brokers and agents for profit.

One agent in America conis that unless you pay in full now, firmed she would hav tickets company in France, which he

Scotland v Morocco

Brazil v Norwey Chile v Cameroon

Spain v Bulgaria

Nigeria v Paraguay

Belgium v Korea Netherlands v Mexico

Germany v Iran USA v Yugoslavia

Romania v Tunisla Colombia v Engli

Japan v Jamaic

Second Pound

Second Round

Second Round Second Round

Quarter Finals

Quarter Finals Quarter Finals

S Africa v Saud Ambia

italy v A

Lens Lyon Toulouse

St Denis

Lens

Toulouse St-Ebenne

Bordeau

SI Denis

St Denis

Bordeaux Parc Oes Princes S-Etienne

Parc Des Princes

from people who wish to buy from her. "Our tickets are sourced from all over the world," she said. "I buy from secondary

June 26

July 04

Parts SF

When The independent posed as a potential

buyer of World Cup tickets, the Atlanta-based agency

24/7 Ticket Service sent back this fax confirming it could

meet our request for 477 tickets. The tickets would have

had a face value of approximately £19,000. The price of

\$385,550 (£244,000) would have constituted an increase

The CFO said tickets may only be sold to the public by themselves, their authorised tour operators and national foothall federations permitted by Fifa to sell tickets.

A CFO spokesman said: "We have the right to allow people to sell tickets and we want to protect that right." He added: "We won't let companies sell tickets that don't have the right to. We want tickets to be sold properly."

The spokesman said one

sons, was already being investigated for illegal hrokering activities and the trade had been stopped. Other traders in France, offering to huy and sell tickets, are being investigated.

"To protect the public, the CFO has taken legal action, and will continue to do so, against all those who offer tickets for sale without proper authorisation, in the interests of preventing and punishing any undertaking of this kind," a

statement said. The CFO added that, to enhance security, all World Cup tickets are nominal and will not be issued until May, but this has not proved sufficient to deter a hlack market.

It is not only British supporters who are unhappy. The Netherlands and Belgium meet in a group game on 13 June in the 80,000-seat Stade de France in Paris — yet they are likely to be allocated only 5,800 and 5,400 tickets, respectively.

Despite the fact the Brussels is only 85 minutes by train from Paris and the Dutch have large travelling support, the vast majority of available tickets will go to French supporters, travel agencies marketing world-wide, and corporate sponsors. It would be remarkable if some of these tickets did not end up in hands other than those for which they are intended.

In a statement released by the Dutch football association, the KNVB, a spokesman summed up the frustrations of the many who are willing, but unable, to attend by legitimate means. "The current division of tickets will simply play into the hands of black marketeers," he said.

34 Macclesfield v Hartlepool..

37 Peterborough v Rochdale .....

38 Rotherham v Darlington ......

39 Scarborough v Lincoln City ...

- Shrewsbury v Cambridge Utd

35 Mansfield v Scunthorpe ..

36 Notts County v Cardiff...

- Swansea v Huti ....

Bell's Scottish League

41 Dundes Utd v Celtic...

43 Klimarnock v Hearts

45 Airdrie v Avr ...

46 Morton v Dundee

49 St Mirren v Partick .

Second Division

Third Division

Alioa v Abroath..

TOMORROW

First Division

44 Rangers v Motherwell ...

40 Aberdeen v Dunfermline ..

42 Hibernian v St Johnstone......

47 Hamilton v Stirling Albion (1.0)

48 Raith v Falkirk ......Postponed

Brechin v Queen of South .....

Inverness CT v Clyde..

Livingston v Clydebank

Sternhousemuir v Forfar

Berwick v East Stirling .

FA Cariling Premiership

Everton v Chelsea (4.0) ..

Bury v Stockport (1,0) .

Cowdenbeath v Albion Rvrs...

Dumbarton v Queen's Park ....

Montrose v Rose County ......

FOOTBALL AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT METCALF

Ukraine

32,500

16,900

7,600 15,600

29,250

64,000

95,000

AC Nichola at \$800

50 tickete at \$1900

One of Europe's most legendary and formidable coaches gave a rare interview this week in which he poured scorn on the reputations of both Ronaldo and Shearer.

The 58-year-old former Soviet Union coach, who has taken Dynamo Kiev to the quarter-finals of the European Cup, is not a fan of the star system. Stars block development in football. They cost a lot but lack a motivation. They've got everything and need nothing," he said.

"Look at Ronaldo," he said of Internazionale's Brazilian, "He's not developing. I watched him once. In the first half he simply stood and waited. Five minutes before the break he scored a goal. But if he hadn't scored, what then? What's the point in having such a star, who

doesn't put in any work?". Lohanovsky was no kinder about Shearer. "What is Shearer? I'm not sure I'd have him in the Dynamo squad," he declared. "We made a video of him playing. He touched the ball 10 times. nine of them standing with his back to goal. He didn't get a shot in. He was hopeless - but he is a star."

Spain

The Spanish First Division cluh Racing Santander have taken out an unusu al insurance policy against relegation to the

Second Division. In the event of dropping out of the top flight, Racing would be paid about £6m to compensate for the loss of lucrative television royalties. The policy, thought to be the first of its kind, will cost the club £1m over two seasons. Racing, currently in their fifth successive season in the First Division after six years in the Second and Third, are currently drift-

ing in mid-table.

The temperamental striker Edmundo, hanished from the national team for indiscipline last year. was forgiven and recalled this week by Brazil's coach, Mario Zagallo, for next month's Concacaf Gold Cup in the United States.

Edmundo has not played for his country since the final of the Copa America in June. Then, he elbowed a Bolivian opponent in an off-the-ball incident and was substituted by a livid Zagallo.



lvic as the new coach of rival of the 63-year-old Croat ends a long search by the Iranian Football Federation for a replacement for the Brazillan, Valdeir Vieira, who was originally hired to coach the Olympic team but was switched to the senior squad late in Iran's successful World Cup qualifying campaign before being deemed surplus to requirements. In a long career, lvic has baan in charge of Hajduk Solit, Anderlecht, Porto, Alax, Atletico Madrid, Paris St-Germain and Merseilles He has also coached the United Arab Emirates and, briefly in 1994, Croatia. - Rupert Metcel

# Love and peace, man – but I want the hard man back



GAFFER **TAPES** 

It has been a long time coming but it still represents a United beat us in the War Cup semi-final Jay Pann, the referee who gave that controversial last-minute goal against us, has issued an apology.

In his apology, issued in the Sludgethorpe Gazette, Pann, players and disallowed two goals, admits his behaviour was heyond the refereeing pale. He apologises for any unhappiness caused by his rulings and says his previous plea of mitigation, that he had a grudge against the club after they rejected him as a teenager, was contemptible.

There are those who see late and issued mainly for political reasons - Pann's grandson runs the Toyota dealership which is looking to expand by buying some land at our training ground. Personally I see it as a magnanimous gesture and I'll mention that to his grandson when I pick up my new car next week - I'm afraid the Ferrari's a write-off; I should never have lent it to that Georgian midfielder we had on

Glenn Hoddle has hrought Brian Heckinbottom back from his self-imposed exile in Goa. Our rough-tough centre-forward had gone away to find heing himself after rejected by Jamaica. Hoddle sat down with him on the beach and, over a thali or two, and perhaps a hookah, persuaded Briwho also sent off three of our an he was still in with a chance of making England's 22. How Glenn kept a straight face as he

> said that I'll never know. However, the Brian that has returned is not the Brian "how do you like your hospital food?" Heckinbottom we know and fear. Brian was a player out of the Denis Smith never asked why, he just said 'How high?'."

much more effective.

We gave Brian a reserve match to test his fitness and he fist in the goolies. The one his sewing kit out. time he did bump into someone

who was down to mark him had spent two hours in the toilet beforehand and looked so pale when he ran out I thought he was a vegetarian. By the end he was puffing his shoulders out and glowing like Ron Atkinson after an afterooon under his favourite sun-lamp. Well, I gave Brian a righi

hollocking in the dressingroom, called him a big girl's hlouse, a pantie-waist and all sorts of non-PVC names. This would normally get him shoving me against a wall with a hroken Lucozade hottle in his hand (one reason why we now use plastic ones) but he just sat there whimpering. "I'm sorry mould as Richie Barker said hoss, I didn't want to let anyof Smithy when he took over one down but it's wrong to hurt this apology as too little, too at West Brom last month, "If your fellow man. He was only I asked him to kick a player he a young lad and he looked a hit ill as well."

Either Hoddle's overdone Brian's like that, though the the counselling or the Moonies game has moved on since must have got hold of him in those days of gentle clogging: Goa. I guess I should have he now uses an elbow which is realised when he came in wearing a kaftan. Then, when Leroy cut it up he didn't even hit him. He just said: "I can undid not make a single foul in the derstand your anger, you must game, not even a dead leg or a deal with as you can", and got

I think we might have to send

The other main news is that he apologised. The callow youth him to Lincoln City on loan so John Beck can toughen him up. In the meantime we've a

problem at centre-forward so I'm following up Ego Massive's tip and heading for Central America. Apparently there's a real head-case No 9, but with a delicate first touch, out there. He's called Che Revolta and all the hig clubs are after him hut there have been complications: he plays up country in the jungle and most of their scouts have failed to reach him.

1 obviously can't trust Kit Mann to find him, so I'm flying out myself after today's game. I've got all the essentials: Swiss Army knife, Immodium, and that back copy of Shoot! magazine with a picture of me coaching the England Under-23s in it.

We need a lift. We're bottom again after last week's defeat. We need a win today but will be missing Ivor Niggle (a nasty cut after he impaled himself on his ceremonial sword) and Shaun Prone (food-poisoning after undercooked sushi). Brian can't make it either, he's attending a consciousness-raising class in Islington.

> Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

### MAJOR WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

TODAY

3.0 unless stated FA Carling Premiership 1 Bamslev v Crystal Palace ..

2 Blackburn v Aston Villa.... 3 Coventry v Arsenal ..... 4 Leeds v Sheffiald Wed. 5 Leicester v Liverpool .... 6 Newcastle v Bolton ....

7 Tottenham v West Ham . a Wimbledon v Derby .... Nationwide Football League 9 Birmingham v Huddersfield ....

10 Man City v Sunderland ..... 11 Middlesbrough v lpswich ...... 12 Norwich v Nottm Forest.. 13 Oxford Utd v Charlton .... 14 Port Vale v Portsmouth ..... 15 OPR v Tranmere.

17 Swindon v Reading ..... 18 West Bromwich v Crewe ....... Second Division 19 Blackpool v Bournemouth ..... 20 Bristol Rovers v Sumley ...

18 Sheffield Utd v Wolves...

21 Chesterfield v Plymouth.. 22 Fulham v Wycombe .... 23 Gillingham v York ...... 24 Grimsby v Brentford ..... 25 Millwall v Wrexham ..... 26 Northampton v Carlisle .....

29 Watford v Preston

31 Chester v Barnet 32 Exeter v Doncaster 33 Leyton Orient v Brighton .......

27 Oldham v Luton. 28 Southend v Walsall

> 30 Wigan v Bristol City Third Division

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# Andorra and Bosnia join the long march to Euro 2000

The picturesque Belgian city of Ghent has come under Spanish, Austrian, French and Dutch control since medieval times. Tomorrow it hosts the draw to begin the process of determining which country will rule European football come the millennium. Phil Show

sets the scene.

Memories of Euro 96 are still glowing, anticipation for France 98 growing. Yet tomorrow, harely six weeks after the draw for the World Cup finals took Scotland will be among the leading seeds in the draw for the campaign to qualify for the European Championship finals

While the joint hosts, Belgium and the Netherlands, bave automatically heen awarded two of the 16 finals places, Uefa's other member 49 nations must await their fate at the International Congress Centre among the canals and bridges of historic Ghent.

They range from the holders. Germany, to Bosnia-Herzegovina (who beat Italy in a friendly 14 months ago) and tiny. tax-free Andorra (population 66.000; registered players 280). both entering for the first time. The draw will be made by Johan Cruyff and the former Belgian for the qualifying groups, which begin in earnest next Septemher, the countries have been graded into five bands. Their to the endearing terminology of the European game's ruling body. Uefa, out of "pots".

To ensure a halanced draw one of whom will go into each group. The second will hold the next hand of teams - theoretically weaker, but including the likes of France, Croatia and Bulnames will be drawn, according garia - and so on down to the 13 "makeweight" countries in the fifth pot.

The seedings were decided The first pot will contain the on the basis of results during

### nine nations rated the strongest, qualifying for the finals in Eng-

SEEDING BAND No 1: Germany (holders), England, Italy, Norway, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Spein, Yugoslavia.

SEEDING BAND No 2: Austria, Bulgaria, Crostla, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Portugal, Turkey.

SEEDING BAND No 3: Finland, Georgia, Israel, Lithuania, Republic of Ireland, Slovelia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraina.

**EURO 2000 QUALIFYING DRAW** 

Iresant, Stovania, Swedent, Switzelent, Ovrana.
SEEDING BAND No 4: Boshia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Hungary, Iceland,
Latvia, Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Poland, Wales.
SEEDING BAND No 5: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus,
Estonia, Faroe Islas, Ligothenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, San Marino, Slovenia.

land 18 months ago and for the save him looking for oppoforthcoming World Cup finals.

England, whose coach. Glenn Hoddle, will attend the draw, learned this week that they will be in one of the five groups of five nations. They will head Group Five, with Italy in Group One, Germany Group Three and Spain Group Seven.

The other top-ranking teams Scotland (seeded for the first time), Norway, Romania. Russia and Yugoslavia - will discover tomorrow whether they will head the remaining group of five or one of the four sixteam sections.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, claims he would be happy to be in one of the larg-

nents for friendlies.

The nine group winners will advance to the finals, which will be be played from 10 June to 2 July 2000. The runners-up with the best record will also go forward automatically, as the Scots did in the World Cup. The other eight second-placed sides will take part in play-offs on a home-and-away hasis in November next year to decide the

last four finalists. Bohby Gould's Wales and manageriess Northern Ireland face an uphill task to qualify after being placed in the fourth seeding band. The Republic of Ireland, who scored a memorable victory over England in the er groups (to include two of the 1988 finals, find their falling supposed cannon fodder). Ever stock reflected by a place in the

### SIDELINES

### Owls in flight to Elland Road

refugee from French football justice made a bizarre debut as a Sheffield Wednesday trialist in an indoor

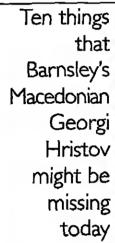


exhibition match against Baltimore Blast. Within days, Eric Cantona had pitched up at Leeds United on route to the first of three successive championship medals.

Howard Wilkinson, then Leeds' manager, was Sheffieldborn, bred and huttered. He had played and managed at Wednesday, and surrounded himself with ex-Hillsborough men. On relocating to West Yorkshire, he inherited John Pearson and Glynn Snodin, and soon added Carl Shutt, Chris Turner (on loan). Mel Sterland, Dylan Kerr, Lee Chapman, Imre Varadi. David Wetherall, Jon Newsome and even a youth player, Andrew Quinn.

Wilkinson famously lost Cantona, and raiding Wednesday again for Carlton Palmer and Nigel Worthington was viewed by many as proof that he had also lost the plot. When the clubs meet today. Wetherall and Newsome (now back in the visitors' stripes) will provide the only link with Leeds' title success apart from Rod Wallace.

Paul Hart, John Sheridan and Jack Charlton all served Wednesday after Leeds, hut remarkably it is 70 years since the Owls' last signing from Elland Road, Aaron Baker. Around the same time, Leeds allowed Jack Allen to join Brentford after two outings. He went on, à la Cantona, to smash 66 goals in Wednesday's championship triumphs of





I Drama - a region of the Macedonian folk Macedonia that has a rich

bistory of theatre. 2 The inspirational legacy of Alexander the Great. 7 Pretty girls. Hristov was 3 Skilog in the resorts of Grevena, Florina, Emathia, Kavala and Serres. (Although he may have had enough of slippery slopes parently Hristov dislikes in the Premiership.) 4 Hundreds of kinds of

kebab. 5 His hometown, Skopje, ravaged in the past by earthquakes, but rebuilt by Kenzo Tango, a Japanese urban planning specialist. 6 Anastasia. Not the longlost daughter of a Tsar, but

group whose "Before the Rain" album is legendary - throughout Macedonia. reported as saying Yorkshire lasses could not compare to Skopje's beauties. 8 Sophisticated girls. Apthe amount of beer that Barnsley women quaff. 9 Fans. He has not been

the most admired man in south Yorkshire. 10 The 14th century St. Andrew's monastery, 17km from Skopje. The ideal

place for contemplation of

his recent statements.

### NAME OF THE GAME No 18: PORT VALE

For more than a century visiting supporters have searched their maps in vain for this Staffordshire club. The accepted version of the club's history suggests they were founded in 1876 and named after a local house in Longport. However, recent research claims that they were formed three years later and that Port Vale was a district of Longport, itself a suburb of Burslem, where the club are now based.





chester United on Monday

hoping to beat the Premier-

ship champions at The Deli

for the third year in succes-

last season they beat United

6-3. In the previous season

United could only draw 2-2 at

The Dell and their last

League victory there was a 3-1

United also had a tough

time against the Saints in the

late 1980s, when they won

only two League fixtures

win in 1993-94.

On 17 January 1996, New- · Southampton entertain Mancastle United, playing at home, were knocked out of the FA Cup by Chelsea.

Ruud Gullit had equalised for the visitors in sion. Two seasons ago the 88th minute, taking the Southampton won 3-1 and game into extra time and a ' penalty shoot-out that the Londoners eventually won.

Newcastle were comforted that in the Premiership, however, they seemed to have an unassailable ninepoint lead over Manchester United at the top of the table. (This was all before the signing of Tino Asprilla. whom no one imagined at the time would ever sport a Newcastle shirt.)

Today's title chasers can ter United's lead needn't ton won on penalties in 1992. prove insurmountable. Ex- . In the League Cup. United surmounted Newcastle's.

against them in four seasons. The clubs have recently met regularly in cups, with honours even. In FA Cup ties, United won in the sixth round take comfort that Manches- : two years ago and Southamp-

cept, of course, in 1996, it : won after a replay in 90-91, was United themselves who while Southampton won in a replay four years earlier.

### THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

remerite (£/2m); Velérien Issmed (£/2m); Velérien Issmed (£/2m); Velérien Issmed (£/2m); Velérien Issmed (£/2m); Petrick Blondess (£/2m); Petrick Blondess (£/2m); Brisen Deane (forward) Śrófield (thi to Berifice (£/2m); Ern); Jan Age Fjorsoft (torward) Śrófield (thi to Berney (£/2m); Deane (£/2m); Brisen Deane (£/2m); Brisen Deane (£/2m); Brisen Britan (£/2m); Brita

Contributors: Phil Shew, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL e-mail address: sport @ independent.co.uk

# place in Marseilles, England and international Paul van Himst. the pragmatist, he says it would third hand.

# Griffin hoping to uphold Stoke's tradition

ANDREW

Being part of Stoke City's defence when they suffered a record home defeat is the kind of setback that could break a fledgling career. But as Phil Shaw discovers, the £2m-rated Andrew Griffin recovered well and has the talent and temperament to become an England fullback of the future.

One day the media was trumpeting Blackburn's arrival in the posse of Premiership clubs interested in buying him. The next he struggled in a Stoke side battered 7-0 by Birmingham. For Andrew Griffin, it was like being repeatedly dumped on your backside by a 16st forward,

only worse. Griffin speaks from experience. He says he was "toughened up" by the heavyweights he ran into in his early teens - hut then he did begin his sporting life playing rugby

watched the 13-a-side code at Central Park as well as representing his school and town at stand-off and centre. His best friend, Terry Newton, went on to Leeds Rhinos and Great Britain Under-21s, but as Griffin said: "Everyone got bigger than me, so I switched to foot-

hall. It took a further switch, from striker to defender, before anyone took notice. Going to the Greater Manchester trials, Griffin heard there was always a surfeit of forwards and a shortage of left-hacks. He took a chance and looked a natural except in one minor detail: he

is right-footed. Stoke's scout was sufficiently impressed to whisk Griffin down to the Potteries. After one A team match he was snapped up, and it became apparent that he was the cluh's best discovery since Steve Bould. He made his senior debut at 17, settling so quickly that Stoke released Nigel Worthington, Northern

Ireland's captain. This season Howard Wilkinson called him into the England Under-18 squad. Griffin has

The 18-year-old from Wigan won four caps - having to pinch himself that he was actually at the Kremlin before facing Russia - alongside Liverpool's Michael Owen, Evenon's Danny Cadamarteri and Matthew

New talent: Andrew Griffin looks to an exciting future while, behind him, is the wreckage of the past, Stoke's old Victoria Ground

Upson of Arsenal. Recently, however, he suffered a dip in form as Stoke slid

ham last weekend that the local newspaper refused to dignify the display by award-

customary marks out of 10. Three days later, after a hattling FA

GRIFFIN Cup exit at fin man of the match.

According to the Stoke coach, Mike Pejic, his longterm prospects could hardly be hrighter. Pejic, a left-back himself, was capped four times by Sir Alf Ramsey, having followed in the footsters of another Potter. Tony Allen, who played three times for England

is confident Griffin can uphold the tradition

"He's the first player managers and scouts ask about," Pejic said. "George Graham was very impressed by him when we played Leeds in the Coca-Cola Cup and he's kept up his indown the First Division. They terest. George bought Lee were so poor against Birming- Dixon from Stoke for Arsenal.

so he knows about full-**NEW FACES** backs.

"Griff's got a good physique and handles himself well against some big. hard lads who've been around. But his greatest at-

tribute is a West Bromwich, it made Grif- change of pace. Even from a standstill he can get away from people with a sudden burst

over five or 10 yards. "His other big asset is the ability to pressure an opponent who's got the ball. He's good at stepping in and forcing that player to get his head down over the ball rather than tak-

in the same position in 1960. He ened of going in tight because in my position are hetter ar the he knows he can turn and

> staff here keep on to me about Pejic acknowledges that the hig clubs are waiting to see how Griffin develops physically - at 5ft 8in and 11st, he may have ham debacle, teacher and two years' growing still to do pupil knew there was hard graft ahead. Pejic declines to but gives him "every chance" of making it.

"There are aspects he needs to improve on, like his crossing, but I've no doubt he'll do it. He works hard on his game and he's got a one-track mind - football. football, football - which is important with all the distractions for youngsters, like drink, gambling and now drugs."

Griffin's early role models were rught players though he admits to an admiration for Stuart Pearce, whose past and present employers, Nottinghum Forest and Newcastle, have joined Arsenal, Everton and others in monitoring his progress.

I like the way Pearce goes forward and has shots," he said. That's a big part of my game. I scored one from long range at Huddersfield, though I have to remember I'm a defender first

### club and at full international level" - and he is level-headed enough to realise he has no chance unless he gives his all for the club who gave him his

midfielder.

Photograph: Peter Jay

"I'm aware a lot of players

wing hit than the back part. The

Even before the Birming-

speculate how much longer

Griffin will remain in Stoke's

stripes. He is none the less

hopeful that he will advance to

the England Under-21s, and

believes his future may even lie

as a right-back or right-sided

of every teenaged dreamer - "to

play for a hig Premier League

Griffin's ambitions are those

Stoke, beset by financial dif-

ficulties and supporter unrest. must trust that their prized gazelle continues to demonstrate the resilience he developed among the 16st rhinos. And if Griffin fulfils his potential, rugby league's loss could be England's gain.

# ing him on. He's not fright-

Hearts aiming to buck Rangers' trend

Ipswich defender Jason

Third-placed Charlton, who

Second-placed Middles-Park this afternoon.

Rangers, meanwhile, enterhalf to the season. Stevie Fulton, the Hearts

midfielder, said: "We are aware that Rangers are usually stronger after the New Year, but I don't think we should be concentrating on that aspect. There are 15 games left to

play and we need to try and get as many points in the hag as we can. What we have to do is not let teams back into the game as we did against St Johnstone." Colin Meldrum is likely to

goalkeeper hefore the game.

Gould and Stewart Kerr. Williamson said: "I have two

is with a club and one who is not. Even it I do complete a deal before Saturday I will probably still play Colin against Hearts. He and even though he is still a young tad he is experienced."

record 10th successive title in the final year at the club of the manager, Walter Smith, but Motherwell go into the match with their confidence restored after taking a point off Celtic in a 1-1 draw last week. Celtic to-

nadice against inconsistent Kilmarnock following Dragoje Dundee United.

When we defeated Rangers in May all the talk was about Rangers are heading for a achieved that."

■ Falkirk have requested totraining and later died.

### City home in on 21st century stadium An away victory would allow Manchester City have moved a fourth-placed Sunderland to

step closer to leaving Maine Road and setting up home at the vet to be built Commonwealth Games stadium. The cluh had "positive" talks with City Council officials at a board meeting earlier this week.

City have been considering moving from Maine Road, their home for over 70 years, and becoming tenants at the new Eastlands site, three miles from their present Moss Side home. The new stadium will be built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games with the aid of lottery money and private business help.

City. who entertain Sunderland today, may be without Georgi Kinkladze, who has a dental abscess, while Sunderland - for whom striker Kevin Phillips was named Nationwide player of the month yesterday - could field an unchanged side for the 10th successive match, although Alan Johnston faces a late test on a hip injury.

keep up the pressure on Nottingham Forest at the top of the table. Forest are at home to Norwich, for whom the rising talent Craig Bellamy begins a twomatch suspension, but Norwich hope to welcome back Darren Eadie from suspension.

A torn hamstring for Forest's Steve Stone means Frenchman Thierry Bonalair will start on the right wing. Midfielder Stephen Howe will certainly not be playing, having joined Swindon Town for £30,000 yesterday. The 24year-old had struggled to make an impact at the City Ground since Dave Bassett took charge.

brough could recall their captain. Nigel Pearson, midfielder Craig Hignett and Danish striker Mikkel Beck for the visit to Ipswich. There will be a more experienced line-up than the one who beat Queen's Park Rangers in the FA Cup in midweek.

Cundy is doubtful with a calf strain, so the 20-year-old Warne Brown may make his debut, unless Man Holland moves into defence. Defender Mark Venus and England under-21 midfielder Keiron Dyer miss out, while Gus Uhlenbeek could make his first League start of the season.

travel to Oxford, keep the team that knocked Middlesbrough off the top of the table last week, while the Oxford captain, Mike Ford, is one of four players facing late fitness tests. United's manager, Malcolm Crosby has drawn a blank in his search, for reinforcements in attack.

 Alan Buckley, the Grimshy manager, has hought midfielder David Smith from his former club, West Bromwich Albion, in a £200,000 deal. The 29-year-old former Coventry player goes straight into the Mariners squad to face Brentford at Blundell

### Hearts are aiming to continue their pursuit of Rangers today

and victory over in-form Kilmarnock at Rugby Park could put them back on top of the table. The Edinburgh side are currently only one point adoft after beating St Johnstone on Monday.

tain Motherwell today, hoping to pull away at the top of the Premier Division, as they traditionally have a strong second

Lekovic's move to Sporting Giion, even if the manager, Bobby Williamson, brings in a new

It is believed that Williamson's target is Celtic's Gordon Marshall, who is now third in the pecking order at Parkhead behind Jonathan

goalkeepers in mind, one who has done well for us in the past

take over goalkeeping duties for - day face a difficult game at Tan-

Alex McLeish, the Mother-

well manager, is hoping for a repeat performance from striker Owen Coyle, who scored twice in last May's 2-0 win. "Owen is an intelligent player, who has great positional sense. You give him chances and more often than not be will put them away. His goals have been worth their weight in gold to us," he said.

how we had mined their title hopes. But that wasn't in my thinking. I was more concerned about avoiding the play-offs and victory at Ibrox meant we

day's First Division match at Raith be postponed after the sudden death of Bot McCallum. The physiotherapist collapsed on Thursday during

Ken Gaunt

After a transfer, an operation, fatherhood and house-moving problems, Ashley Ward was hoping for a more stable 1997 with Derby County.

It did not work out like that. The striker has been hit for sixes and sevens, and not just while playing for his latest club, Barnsley. He has also suffered from meningitis. But, despite last week's thrashing by West Ham, Glenn Moore found him still in an upbeat mood.

Last April Ashley Ward sat back in the bath in the visitor's dressing-room at Old Trafford and thought contentedly "I bet this won't happen very often". Manchester United had just been beaten at home and Ward, a Manchester City supporter as a boy. bad scored in Derby County's surprise victory.

Six months later he went back to Old Trafford, this time with Barnslev. As he recalled this week, "normal service was resumed". Barnsley were beaten 7-0.

Such a scoreline bas become as much a feature of Barnsley's season as United's, only Barnstey usually have the "nil". Last week they were beaten 6-0 by West Ham United and, as with the 5-0 at Arsenal and 6-0 at home to Chelsea, the sages nodded and said "I knew they were out of their depth".

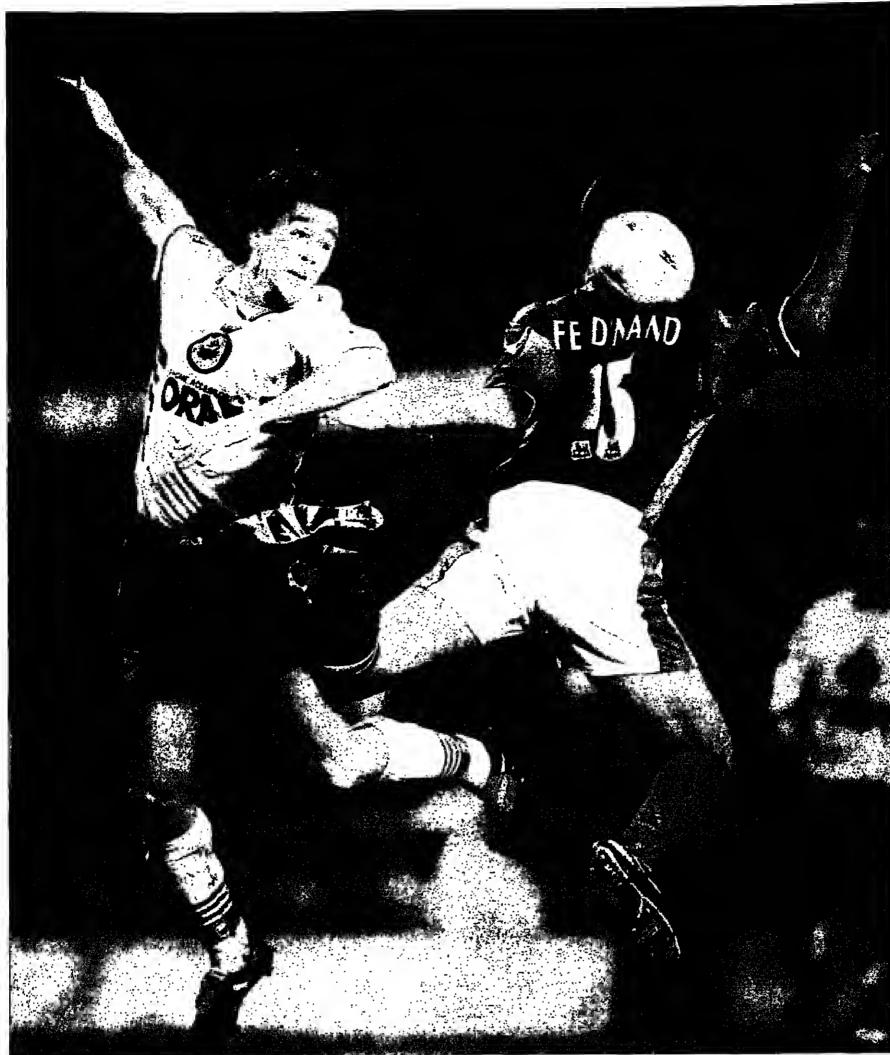
Yet Barnsley are still only two points adrift at the bottom and five points behind today's opponents at Oakwell, Crystal Palace, who occupy the last safety position.

"We've bad some good performances, especially at home," Ward said, "that's why we are still in with a shout. If we beat Palace we go two points behind them and most of the teams in the bottom half have got to to come to our place [only Coventry, of the bottom nine, are still to play Barusley at bome].

"I knew it would be tough when I joined, everyone did, but we were starting to get it right. We had a terrible time at Tottenham [0-3], hut apart from that we were doing well. Ade Moses and Arjan de Zeeuw were getting it together at the back and we had conceded one goal in the last three games, which was pretty good considering the way they've were suspended last Saturday [against West Ham], we had to bring in two new lads, one making a debut, the other playing his second game, and we got hammered again."

The new pairing were not the only ones at fault and it would have been pretty quiet in the away dressingfoom at Upton Park had Danny Wilson not been dishing out a major bollocking. "The gaffer was furious," Ward said. "It was a bad perfor-

"It is difficult to lift yourself afterwards, it's humiliating. Professionals are not used to it. From an early age they have usually played in the better teams and it's not often people get whacked in the Pre-



Fighting spirit: Barnsley's Ashley Ward shows his commitment to the Barnsley cause during last week's heavy defeat at West Ham United

I put it to Ward, by way of consolation, that some of us have suffered 6-0 stuffings at regular intervals in our footballing life, but be responds, gently hut with feeling: "It doesn't matter when you're playing for the Lion

and Lamh. This is our livelihood."

Ward's ability to earn that livelihood was threatened last autumn when he was diagnosed as suffering from meningitis. The prospect of not being able to play football was the least of his worries as he waited for the results of the tests.

type's a killer. My health is fine now, mediately." but I was ill for a week or so, then had to do nothing for a month. That

"It was frightening." he said. just gone to a new club. It was sim- Derby settled well in their first sea-

When we last met in December 1996, Ward was striking up a good was frustrating, especially as I had partnership with Dean Sturridge as into his office.

"The first few days they didn't ilar to when I went to Derby and son back in the top flight. He endknow what type it was - the other needed a groin operation almost im- ed the season with a reasonable eight goals from 25 starts and retained his place for the current campaign, but in September Jim Smith called him

"I was playing every game, but Jim told me an offer had come in and it was up to me. That more or less makes your mind up for you. Derby had earlier said they would not sell Dean for £5m but they were prepared to let me go for rather less than a fortune (£1.3m, rising to £1.55m if Barnsley stay up], so it was obviously time to move on.

meinous on Tyn ME Bolton Want

g Peter Beards

in Cara looks

ask facing News

wing premiers

shile (below) our

"I didn't want to risk being in reserves. Jim's always looking to the foreign market and be'd brought in Paulo Wanchope and Francesco Baiano as well as Deon Burton."

It was time for his sixth club in total and fourth in three years. "When I spoke to Danny I wasn't sure, but it's worked out great for me. I love it here. The supporters have been fantastic, the best I've come across. They've never once turned on the team, maybe they appreciate the difficulty of the task, but not every-

Most of Ward's moves have been at his employers' instigation and there have been reports that he may be sold if Barnsley are relegated. You never know, but I'd like to stay here," be said.

The liking for Barnsley is partly because be has been able to move back to his native Manchester and; after years of housing problems caused by his regular transfers, he will shortly be moving into a converted barn which has been rebuilt by his father-in-law. With a second daughter due next month it will not be a moment too soon.

The first daughter was named Darby less than a month before he moved from Norwich City to Derby two years ago. "Tve already had a few comments, hat we won't be naming her after a football team,

Ward, who bas managed five goals in 18 matches for Barnsley, including very satisfying winners against Liverpool (at Anfield) and Derby, may have a new partner today. Norway's Jan Age Fjortoft was signed from Sbeffield United for £800,000 on Thursday.

"I assume he's support for me but you never know," Ward said. "It should be enjoyable playing with him. He's got experience, scores a few goals and is a big lad, so I won't have to challenge for every high ball

Three of the Premiership bottom four were promoted last year and three of the First Division's top four relegated which would suggest the

gap is getting ever bigger.

There is a gap. One problem for tenham can hring in players like Klinsmann and Berti. There's no way we can do that - they may be on free transfers, but the wages are beyond us. The teams that have just come up struggle with injuries. We don't have the depth, not just in numbers hut in quality.

"The speed of thought is a big difference. If you are pulled out of position in the Premiership someone goes in the space, in the First Division you can get away with it. People make better runs. You don't get as many goal chances either, for every chance you get at Barnsley you would probably get three for United or Liverpool. But I knew that

# You've just got used to a player when suddenly he's off

Among the many snippets of cent weeks from the pages of me that the Portuguese striker Paulo Alves had returned home after a loan spell with West Ham. In essence, it wasn't a particularly spectacular nugget of information; Alves had made such little impact at Upton Park that 1 (and, I suspect, many Hammers fans) had forgotten he'd even arrived in the first place.

But that's loan deals for you. In my opinion the loan or temporary transfer as they like to call it - is a strange vet it can be as infuriatingly un-

For every player who has a loan deal to thank for kick-starting his career (Brett Angell loan to Sheffield United. West Brom and finally Stockport, a passport to obscurity (Shaun just a few seasons ago, went on

And for fans, loan deals can information I've gleaned in re- be maddening. I mean, you've just got used to a player when this newspaper was one telling suddenly he's off without so much as a "so long and thanks for the memories" (if there are any; some deals last no longer than a month).

Take Alves' compatriot Hugo Porfirio. His skills made him a cult figure during his loan spell at West Ham, yet the Hammers couldn't match the pesetas on offer for him. Not that it bothered Harry

Redknapp much. He says Porfirio "did a good job for us at the time", and claims loans are "a great idea. You get a playbeast. It's as integral to our er on loan for a few months, he game as the penalty shoot-out, tries his beart out to win himself a contract and you just pay his wages while you get to have a good long look at him."

Bet be wisbes be'd got Marco Boogers. Paulo Futre hadn't managed to score for and Florin Raducioiu on loan Sunderland when he went on before shelling out the best part of £5m for them.

Still, the West Ham manwhere his goals carned him a ager bas other reasons for adpermanent contract), there's vocating loans. If it were up to another for whom getting him be'd farm out every kid, farmed out on loan is essentially to broaden their horizons as well as their skills. Most re-Teale, an England possibility cently, Rio Ferdinand sampled life on the South Coast at loan from Tranmere to Preston Bournemouth while Frank last February and little has Lampard Jur went to Swansea: both returned better - and habit of farming out his fledg- they have a "joker" system here), I wouldn't say no.



OLIVIA BLAIR

ON THE INADEQUACIES OF THE LOAN SYSTEM

(supposedly) more mature players - for the experience. Redknapp says: "You don't

get the same experiences playing reserve-team football where it's a mix of slightly soured seniors and youngsters trying for their lives. First-team football is a different ball-game altogether, plus they don't get pampered in the lower divisions. They might get a cup of tea, but you can forget the laundry and the boots cleaned. It's character building, if nothing else."

Alex Ferguson would no doubt agree. He's made a Birmingham), Michael Ap-Even David Beckham was a good case for doing so. Similarly, Newcastle sent

Darren Huckerby on loan to Miliwall, but their hand was rather forced since Kevin Kecgan had disbanded the reserves at St James' Park and Huckerby wasn't playing any football at all. But for all a loan deal ben-

efits a young player and is useful to a manager as a precursor to a permanent signing, loans are arranged, more often than not, to get a club out of a spot of bother. Call me a cynic, hut I can't see Jürgen Klinsmann staying at Spurs beyond May. Spurs say they've signed bim until the end of the season; I say it's just a glorified loan deal. And will Tomas Brolin really stay in London SE25 when the season ends, particularly if it means playing First Division football? I think not.

Over in Europe, of course, clubs can sign as many players as they want on loan and those all my dislike of it, were anyplayers are even allowed to play against the club holding their registration. (In France, I'm speaking as a Spurs fan

lings, among them Terry whereby clubs can apply to sign Cooke (to Sunderland and a player on loan at any time of the season - even outside the pleton (to Lincoln and Grims- transfer windows - when a criby) and Ben Thornley (to sis deems it necessary. In oth-Huddersfield and Stockport). er words, when they can make

But then in most European Leagues there is greater fluidity of movement between the divisions; our top clubs are more self-interested. Football Association rules decree that Premier League clubs cannot conduct loans deals between tbemselves, except in the case of goalkeepers, and only then when the circumstances are

"extenuating". So, loans can only be conducted between Premier League and Nationwide League clubs, and each club can only sign two players on loan at any one time up to a maximum of five per season. (That latter figure has increased this season. so if it seems to you - as it does to me-that there are more and more loan deals nowadays, then you'd be right).

Which means that the temporary transfer is here to stav. in its many shapes and forms. Still, I have to admit that for one to lend us a full-back or a ball-winning midfielder (and

### Why earache is Semitic soccer's biggest headache

The date: 14 April. 1974. The particular. Jews aren't physiplace: Mitcham Common. (Twenty-four Jewish lads south of the river? This is tantamount to Yasser Arafat praying at the Western Wall). The occasion: the final of The Referees' Invitation Trophy, Jewish football's premier cup competition, making the choice of the venue even more hizarre. We all came from Hendon and Edgware.

letico Neasden, the kings of Semitic soccer, unheaten in three seasons. Until now. We beat them one-nil on penalties. The first 10 penalties were all missed - or saved - so the referee, eager as we were to get back for lunch, moved the spot forward by two feet (but to you, three). Neasden missed kick number 11, we scored the next, and I lifted the tropby. presented in a blaze of flasbbulbs by a kosber hutcher from Finchley.

Our opponents were Ath-

We were Bar Kochha FC, the "ch" pronounced the Scottish way, as in och aye, named after a Jewish revolutionary who, it is rumoured, was the first Biblical character to wear moulded studs.

We played in the Maccahi Sunday League, where all teams had to be all-Jewish. Now this gave rise to a number of problems, but one in

cal, we argue. You get no real injuries in Jewish football just earache. So what we did was this. We signed a ringer, a hard man, a non-Jew, a player who was not only a cut above ability-wise, but one who could put himself about a bit. In a team of Hoddles we wanted a Hunter (that's Norman, oot Hillman). Our ringer was Stevie Prince. No one knows for sure why he wanted to play for us. We were to football what Woody Allen is to baby-sitting.

> FAN'S EYE VIEW NO 240 BAR KOCHBA FC BY . PETER MOSS

But I do know be liked the name Bar Kochba. He thought it was a pub in Poland.

Stevie Prince - or Sheldon Pinkus, the name adopted for registration - was a great asset. But he did have to be ever so circumspect in the changing-room when the other team were about, bim being the odd man out in an otherwise foreskin-free zone.

Most of our team were the way it worked out - so we sandwich!

knew bow to pick a bome ground. No Hackney Marshes for us; even Wormwood Scrubs became passé once we made our move to Hampstead Heath Extension, a particularly Jewish area of north London. (It would be. Who hut a Jew would take a place like Hampstead Heath and add an extension?)

It was a pleasure to get sent off on the Extension, ifonly to have a little more time to admire the ornate mansions - one of which was home to Elizabeth Taylor that abutted our hallowed turf. Once, the referee, senior partner at the firm of surveyors where I did my articles, sent me off for arguing with him over the value of a house that backed on to our pitch. Only in Jewish foothall!

Bar Kochba exist today only as a memory. I still see many of the lads; some of them I play five-a-side with, and Radlett Ralph I meet across the tennis net down at the David Lloyd. But not-Stevie. So Stevie, if you're reading this, and you need a ... flying winger ringer for your govische team, call me. I'm no Ryan Giggs, but God knows I can talk the opposition into: near terminal somnolence. And what's more, my mum estate agents - that's just still makes a mean salt beef

# arnsley

# Newcastle have reason to fear the Beardsley factor

The atmosphere is mutinous on Tyneside, but Bolton Wanderers and Peter Beardsley might make it worse. Guy Hodgson looks at the task facing Newcastle United today and other leading Premlership fixtures this weekend. while (below) our sports staff assess the programme game by

It does not take much to move a Newcastle United supporter to tears these days - through look at the team the last time their side met Bolton Wanderers at St James' Park should be enough to do it.

Peter Beardsley, Paul Kitson, Lee Clark and David Ginola, with Darren Huckerby making an appearance as a substitute: the list reads like the fallen in battle, gone but not forgotten. A bygone age then when Newcastle could score and, if memory serves me well, thrill? No. just two years ago.

with goals from Kitson and Beardsley and if you could find anything to make Kenny Dalglish's week more depressing than it already is, it is the

Newcastle won 2-1 that day.

prospect of Beardsley popping in the winner before an adoring Toon Army today. You boredom if not sorrow - and a could twist the knife further by having it set up by Scott Selfars but, no, even Hammer Films would consider that too gruesome.

Dalglish put up a spirited defence on Thursday saying that Faustino Asprilla was desperate to leave, but that is not likely to appease supporters who have seen the cavaliers of Kevin Keegan's team evolve into the Premiership's Mogadon men. Worse, the discarding of the frills has not improved the basics and Newcastle have gained only two of

their last 24 points. On Wednesday, as news of Asprilla's £7m move to Parma broke, Radio Five Live was in-

undated with distressed Tynesiders demanding Dalglish's or the board's dismissal. The gist was they wanted a return to the heady play of the recent past, but most of all they wanted a win.

The return of Alan Shearer would help - and there is a prospect of that today as a substitute - hut even the England he said, "but accept the criticism striker is unlikely to score if the supply is not there. In the last nine matches, Newcastle have scored just five goals, two of which were against the Premiership's Aunt Sallys, Barnsley.

Defeat today against opponents, who last won at St James' Park in 1959 and Newcastle will be drawn closer to the relegation places and Dalglish's position will be hurtling towards

the untenable. Brian Little, too, is discern-

ing a chill in the atmosphere after Aston Villa's season of Premiership underachievement. The team were boosed off the pitch after they laboured to beat Portsmouth in a midweek FA Cup replay, a reaction that the manager described as hurtful. "There's nothing you can do," an work harder.

Hard work is an appropriate phrase for Villa's trip to Ewood, where Blackburn will be anxious to atone for Sunday's 3-1 defeat at Derby as well as to make inroads in Manchester United's seven-point lead. The champions do not play until Monday when they travel to Southampton and every member of the chasing pack will be praying for a repeat of last season's 6-3 rout.

routs than any team, but they hope to include their new striker Jan Age Fjortoft against Crystal Palace. Last week they were crushed 6-0 by West Ham. hut 19-year-old Brian Wilson will keep his place. "He was the only player to come out of the game with any credit," their

Sweden's Tomas Brolin makes his first return to Yorkshire after his disastrous spell at Leeds and believes that he has made the right choice, despite Palace's lurch towards the bottom three. "They helieve in me, which is a good thing to know when you go on the pitch," he said.

manager. Danny Wilson, said.

Ten miles down the A61, Brolin's erstwhile employers will meet Sheffield Wednesday and Neil Lennon are all said

predict because the participants are sending out conflicting signals. Are Leeds slipping out of the European places and Wednesday moving the opposite direction, or are their recent results just hlips? Today

Just as Coventry's Dion Dublin will probably have a better idea whether he will move to Middlesbrough. The striker greedy in refusing a £17,000-8week contract and his reception against Arsenal might fall short of the usual home adulation.

Not that it is all sweetness

should clarify things.

and light at Filhert Street where there is talk of unrest about Leicester's pay scales. Matt Elliott, Emile Heskey

Barnsley know more about in a derby which is difficult to to have noticed they could pick up more cash elsewhere. including Liverpool who are today's opponents.

Christian Gross has also had his fair share of scepticism directed towards him since he arrived at Tottenham and yesterday's pronouncements on the eve of their home game against West Ham will not have helped. A team that plays together wins together seems has been accused of being to be the gist as he outlined a series of social events, including an M People concert and a meal.

You feel a trip to the circus to see the Cirque du Soleil at the Royal Albert Hall might have been left off the list, however. Was that an Arsenal fan saying "You'd think he'd seen enough clowns"?



game.

### Barnsley v C Palace

Jan Age Fjortoft will make his Barnsley debut after completing an £800,000 move from Sheffield United. He will partner Ashley Ward up front. The Swede Peter Markstedt is filely to play alongside Chris Morgan in the centre of the home defence as Arjan de Zeeuw and

Adnan Moses complete two-match bans. Crystal Palace's injury problems will ease slightly with the return of defender Jamie Smith after an ankle injury. However, Neil Emblen is likely to be ruled out with a hamstring injury and Simon Rodger will undergo a late fitness test on his hamstring strain. Palace's attacking options are also limited. Attilio Lombardo aggravated a hamstring complaint on Thursday which may delay his return and his fellow Italian Michele Padovano, who has also been out since before Christmas, will have a late fitness test. Neil Shipperley, who is troubled by a groin strain, is unlikely to play. Tomas Brolin is therefore likely to partner Bruce Dyer again in attack, despite the fact that the Swede has yet to regain full match fitness.



### Blackburn v Aston Villa

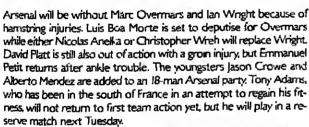
Yorke, Taylor,

Colin Hendry is doubtful for Blackburn after he missed training during the week with a stomach illness while Lars Bohinen, who broke down in training with a calf injury, could be out for several weeks. Roy Hodgson, the Rovers manager, could recall the midfielder Billy McKinlax who was restricted to the substitutes' bench last weekend on his return from a two-match suspension. However, sweeping changes are unlikely despite Sunday's 3-1 defeat at Derby.

Dwight Yorke is set to make his first Premiership appearance for seven weeks. The Aston Villa forward made a successful comebad: from a calf operation in the FA Cup win over Portsmouth on Wednesday. However, Villa expect to be without the defender Gareth Southgate for the third successive game because of an ankle injury. With Riccardo Scimeca (hamstring) also very doubtful, David Hughes or Lee Collins could be given a chance in defence. The midfielder Mark Draper is also very doubtful because of a harristning problem. Fernando Nelson or Lee Hendrie are likely to deputise.



### Coventry v Arsenal



Dion Dublin will play for Coveritry despite speculation that he is on the way to Middlesbrough. He will lead City's attack alongside Darren Huckerby, with the recent Romanian signing, Viorel Moldovan, on the substitutes' bench. Coventry welcome bad: George Boateng from suspension, but Marcus Hall, who has turned down a £1.5m move to Sheffield Wednesday, completes a two-match ban. Roland Nilsson returns after flu.



### Leeds v Sheff Wed

Leading scorer Last season: 0-2

Mark Beeney will make only his second first-team appearance in 20 months when he replaces the suspended Nigel Martyn in goal for Leeds. Beeney, who has been on the bench 152 times in the five years he has spent at Elland Road since joining the club from Brighton. last played a year ago in a goalless draw against Derty. Beeney will been beaten in the Premiership at Elland Road since a 1-0 defeat to Leicester in September. The Leeds captain, David Hopkin returns after tonsilitis, while David Robertson is back after a two-match sus-

Des Walker is Sheffield Wednesday's only doubt. The former England defender was forced off in extra time of the midweek FA Cup third-round replay penalty shoot-out victory over Watford with a twisted ankle. If Walker is unfit, Dejan Stefanovic will return from a one match ban. The Italian striker Benito Carbone is completing a two-match suspension.



### Leicester v Liverpool

The Leicester manager Martin O'Neill has doubts about the fitness of his leading scorer Ian Marshall who is struggling with a grow injury which has troubled him for over a month. Better news is that goallaeeper Kasey Keller has shaken off a virus. O'Neill has previ ously used man-marking tactics on Steve McManaman and may asl. the Swedish defender Pontus Kamark to shadow the Liverpool dan-

Everpool's German international striker Karlheinz Riedle is suffering from a groin injury and will miss the match, leaving Michael Ower, and Robbie Fowler as Roy Evans' front-line pairing as his side look for their sorth successive Premiership win, Oyvind Leonhardsen picked up a leg injury in training this week, but the Norwegian midfield player should be fit to take part in a crucial four-day spell that could see Liverpool rise to second in the Premiership with wins in this match and over Newcastle on Tuesday, If Leonhardsen does not make it. Patrik Berger will step in.

### ... And statistics

### Leading Premiership marksmen find the going tough

Although more goals are being scored in the Premiership this season, the leading scorers themselves are finding goals harder to come by. Chris Sutton, the Premiership's leading marksman, has found the net 13 times, but his total is well below that of the leading scorer at this stage of previous seasons.

Of the leading scorers Andy Cole has the best strike rate, with an average of 123 minutes per goal, compared with Sutton's 142 minutes. However, two players can beat that figure. Gianluca Vialli's six goals have arrived at the rate of one every 88 minutes, while Julian Joachim's four goals have averaged one every 90 minutes. Four of Vialli's appearances have been as substitute and in three matches he

Chris Sutton (8lackburn)

Andy Cole (Man United)

Francesco 8aiano (Derby)

Kevin Gallacher (Blackburn)

Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal)

Other goalscorers include:

Giantuca Vialli (Chelsea)

Julian Joachim (Leicester)

Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)

**Derby's Francesco Baiano** scored in six matches in

succession earlier this

lan Wright (Arsenal) .

John Hartson (West Ham)

Leading Premiership goalscorers: 1997-98

12

Goals Apps Minutes Minutes

21

20. 21

10

11

played per goal

1841

1977

1356

1614

1806

20 728 173

525

359

18 \_ 1609

142

165

147

181--

161

has been replaced; nine of Joachim's 11 appearances have been as a substitute.

The leading scorers are also finding it tougher as the season progresses. Between them the seven goalscorers now in double figures scored 55 goals before the end of October but have found the net only 22 times since.

Benito Carbone would have been one of the leading scorers if he had managed to keep up his early-season form of seven goals in his first eight games, but the Sheffield Wednesday striker has drawn a blank in his last 11 appearances. Carbone's Wednesday colleague, Andy Booth, also has a curious record: he has made 12 appearances but all

his four goals came in the space of 100 consecutive minutes straddling the matches against Bolton and Arsenal In November.

Derby's Francesco 8aiano boasts the best consecutive scoring spell of the season, having hit the target in six successive matches in September and October. The Premiership record is held by Mark Stein, who scored in seven consecutive matches for Chelsea in the 1993-94 season.

Overall, Premiership goalscoring is at record levels. In 218 games this season 592 goals have been scored at an average of 2.72 goals per game. This compares with 2.55 last season and 2.65 in the best season, 1992-93,

Goals Apps Strike

137 -169 : 1.23

rate

187 1.80

191 - 1.84

154 1.67 187 2.23

147 1.77

196 2.36 ---176 2.47

156" 2.23

193 ^ · 3.45

-116 2.19 165 3.17

131 2.57

3.02

183 3.05

178

143

All-time leading Premiership goalscorers

104

104

92

72

51

Leading Premiership goalscorers after 22 games

1996-97

Alan Shearer 16

Ian Wright 16

1993-94

Andy Cole 19

Alan Shearer 18

Alan Shearer (Newcastle)

Les Ferdinand (Tottenham)

Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)

Chris Sutton (Blackburn).

Eric Carriona (ex-Man Utd)

Peter 8eardsley (8ofton)

Dean Holdsworth (Bolton)

Mark Hughes (Chelsea)

Stan Collymore (A Villa)

Dwight Yorke (A Villa)

Dion Dublin (Coventry)

Tony Cottee (Leicester)

Chris Sutton 13

1994-95

John Hartson 12

Alan Shearer 20

Robbie Fowler 18

Teddy Sheringham (Man Utd) 84

Matt Le Tissier (Southampton) 83

fan Wright (Arsenal)

Andy Cole (Man Utd)

Goals this season:

(strike rate)

10 (2.0)

3 (4.33) 9 (1.56) 8 (2.25) 11 (1.55)

3 (4.00)

2 (7.50)

1 (14.00) 5 (3.20)

-4 (4.25)

4 (4.25)

1995-96

Alan Shearer 19

Les Ferdinand 18

Robbie Fowler 18

1992-93

Alan Shearer 16

Statistics: Brian Sears

8 (2.50) 0 (8 apps)

on Thursday.

### Tottenham v West Ham Leading scorer

Newcastle v Bolton

Apart from being able to consider Alan Shearer again, there is more

good news for the Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish with defenders

Alessandro Pistone and Stuart Pearce back in his squad. Both missed

last Saturday's defeat at Sheffield Wednesday. The Italian had flu while

the England international was absent with a harrstring strain. Dalglish

is is able to call upon the 24-year-old Frenchman David Terrier, who

is in the squad after he joined Newcastle on a six-month contract

Peter Beardsley could face his former club in a Bolton shirt. The

midfield player Alan Thompson begins a two-match suspension and

Beardsley may replace him in the starting line-up. The Bolton cap-

tain Gudni Bergsson is also beginning a two-game ban and his place

in the heart of Wanderers' defence will be taken by the South African

international Mark Fish, Mike Whitlow is still unavailable with a knee

problem, while Bob Taylor, who is currently on loan from West Brom,

will continue up front alongside Nathan Blal.e.

es, Asprilla 6 Leading scorer

Harrson 19

Tottenham's David Ginola will undergo a late fitness test to see if he has recovered from a calf injury. If fit, the Frenchman is likely to partner Jürgen Klinsmann in attack with the Portuguese winger Jose Domingues making way. Les Ferdinand is still out with a thigh injury. Spurs' 20-year-old Norwegian goalkeeper Espen Bardsen retains his place as Ian Walker has still not recovered from a shoulder injury. Nicola Berti makes his home debut, while David Howells is likely to be among the substitutes after recovering from a stress fracture just below a knee. Andy Sinton, a substitute at Old Trafford last week. is set to replace Stephen Clemence in the starting line-up. West Ham's Northern Ireland midfielder Steve Lumas returns from suspension, which means that the former Spurs player John Moncur returns to the bench. With Andy Impey and Tim Breacker both injured, Steve Potts will probably fill in at right wing-back.



### Wimbledon v Derby

lain Dowie returns to the bench with Paul Fitson still out with a

groin strain and Paolo Alves having returned to Portugal.

The Wimbledon manager foe Kinnear is expected to keep faith with the side that beat Wresham in the midweel. FA Cup replay. The Winnbledon striker Efan Elvoku played the last 15 minutes against Wrevham, after having been out for two months out through injury, but is only likely to win a place on the bench for today's game. The Dons' recent signings Carl Leaburn and Stale Solbal-lien will be hoping to be involved at some stage, but Kinnear is still without long-term in-

Dean Sturridge is the latest casualty for a Derby team again depleted by injuries and suspensions. A thigh strain rules Sturndge out of today's game, providing an opening for the Jamaican international Deon Burton. Three Derby midfielders - Stefano Eranio, Darryl Powell and Lee Carsley - will be missing because of suspension but their wing-back Robbie Kodluk has recovered from the groin injury which kept him out of last Sunday's 3-1 win over Blackburn.

jury victims Ben Thatcher, Jason Euell and Brian McAllister.



### TOMORROW Everton v Chelsea ed, Ferguson 6 Leading scorer

The French striker Mickael Madar will make his home debut for Everton having scored in his first game in the win at Crystal Palace last weekend. Having let their right-back Earl Barrett join Sheffield United on loan during the week. Everton have a host of injury problems on the right side of their team. Mitch Ward is still out, Torry Thomas is a major doubt with a hamstring injury while Terry Phelan and Tony Grant both picked up calf strains in a reserve game on Thursday. Graham Allen and Jon O'Connor are on stand-by.

Chelsea's Romanian Dan Petrescu has recovered from a bout of flu which kept him out of last week's defeat of Coventry, but Poberto di Matteo begins a two-match suspension while Andy Myers is out with a hamstring injury. Steve Clarke received a knock in training in the week, but should be fit enough to play, as will Dennis Wise who is still troubled by the effects of a toe mjury, kevin Hitchcock has a sore throat and will be replaced on the bench by Dmitri Khann if he fails to recover in time.

WHISTLERS' LEAGUE	UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE
Reference   Games   Red   Yet   Pin   Ave     1	Powed Red Velow Po. Am 2 Leeds 22 3 48 68 3.09 2 Leeds 22 3 48 68 3.09 3 Evertion 22 3 47 62 2.82 4 Bolton 22 4 40 60 2.73 5 Chelsee 22 3 49 52 5.00 6 Sheff Wed 22 3 39 54 2.45 7 Blackburm 22 3 36 51 2.32 9 Newcastle 10 Arsenal 22 1 25 38 48 2.29 10 Arsenal 22 1 45 50 2.27 11 C Palace 23 2 41 51 2.22 12 West Halm 23 1 38 43 167 13 Southmiptin 22 1 35 40 182 14 Liverpool 21 1 29 34 162 15 Man Utd 22 0 35 35 159 16 Wimbledon 23 1 30 35 152 17 Samsley 22 0 33 33 150 18 Leicester 22 1 27 32 145 19 Spurs 22 1 27 32 145 20 Aston Villa 22 1 26 31 141
Premiership matches only	Red cards: 5pts
Red cards: 5pts: Yellow: 1pt	Yellow 1nt

# be called upon to defend Leeds' good home record: they have not FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

						Home			Away				Form	Upcoming matches		
		Pí	ភិន	GĐ	W	Ē	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	(most recent on right)	
7	Man Ute /	122	49	+35	10	ī	0	32.	4	.5.	3	. 3	- 19	Q	WWWLW	Providing Tourisampton (A): 31 Jain Lescester (H).  7 Feb Botton (H): 14 Feb West Ham (A):
2	Chelsea	122	42	+27	7	-2		20	9	,	ī	5	30	H	DWDLW	31 Jan Barrele, (Ht. 8 Feb Arseral (A), 14 Feb Crystal Paters (Ht. 21 Feb Lexester (A)
_	Blackburn	22	41	1 +15	7	3	·J.	25	2:	1	·· 5.	. 3	Į4	12	WWDDL	37 Jan Liverpoor (A); 7 Reb. fortentiam (H); 14 Feb Lends (A); 27 Feb Scuttumpton (A);
4	Liverpool	3	40	+14	8	5	3	25	IÙ	1	4	7	12	o	wwww	27 jan Newcasde (Hr. 31 jan Blackturn (H). 7 Feb Southampton (H), 14 Feb Sheff Wed (A)
5	-	21	37	+B	7	2	2	23	9	3	- 5	· 2	H	15	WLWDW	. 31 Juni Southumpeon (Hg. 3 Feb Deleca (H):  M Feb Bothm (A): 21 Feb Crystal Paloce (H):
	Derby	122	35	- 3	e	3	7	22	b.	2	2	7	<b>F</b>	23	DDWLW	31 Jan Tottenham (H), 7 Feb Aston Villa (H), 14 Feb Everton (A), 21 Feb Manchester Utd (A),
_	Leeds	122	35	+6	5	3	3	16	D	5	2	.4	5.	В	DWLDL	35 Jan GPalace (A), 7 Feb Lacester (A), 84 Feb Backborn (H), 22 Feb Neurosale (A).
8	West Ham	1 22	34	+2	-3	ŋ	ī	24	0		ſ	9	Ю	<b>3</b> 6	WLWWW	31 Jan Everton (H); 7 Feb Newcastle (A), 14 Feb Plan Und (H), 21 Feb Bolton (A)
_	Leicester	722	29	+4	3	6	3	ß	11 :	14	2	4	ß	IJ	ספונו	31 Jun Pan Lind (A), 7 Feb Leeds (Fi), 44 Feb Totterstam (A), 21 Feb Cheises (H),
	Aston Villa	122	27		5	3	5	Ľ	15	ì	3	ė	q	B	LDWDD	I Feb Newcaste (H), 7 Feb Derby (A), 14 Feb Barnsley (H), 18 Feb Manchesser Utd (H)
_	Newcastle	73.	26	i _5	5	3	4	13	ß	.5	2	5	9	14	DLIII	20 to Liverpoot (A). I Feb Assor Vita (A) 7 Feb We-1 Horn (H): 14 Feb Wineledon (A)
	Sheff Wed	12	26	-11	,	-:	1	20	16	7	•	5	H	IJ	LLDDW	31 Jan Wimbledon (H), 7 Feb Coventry (A), 14 Feb Liverpool (H), 21 Feb Tottenham (H)
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20	Barnsley	23	18	-55	3	-	3	4:	20	-			•	(	ו שוניים	14 Feb Aston Vita (A); 21 Feb Coveniry (A)

Saturday 17 January 1998 ■

# World Cup organisers launch crackdown on ticket touts

The World Cup organisers will take firm action to stop any unauthorised trade in tickets for this summer's tournament. Nick Harris reports.

The French Organising Cnmmittee for the World Cup (CFO) will take all measures necessary in ensure that tickets for the tournament are sold according to its rules.

As The Independent revealed vesterday, World Cup tickets are being advertised - particularly on the Internet - by unauthorised agents. A CFO spokeswoman said yesterday: "If we have evidence that tickets are bought through unauthorised sources, we will stop the tickets."

Tickets will not be distributed until late in May and the CFO's most effective method of stopping a black market will be simply not to issue tickets where it can prove they are part of an

courage fans only to buy through authorised operators. If they buy via unauthorised sources, they will not receive or one they might not be able to use.

In cases where the CFO believes that tickets have been bought on the black market, it may organise random identity checks on match days. Fans in possessinn of such tickets will risk heing refused entry.

The spokeswoman said that in the meantime, the CFO would

The CFO hopes this will en- investigate all instances around the world where unauthorised trade is suspected. The Independent reported yesterday that an they risk either huying a ticket unofficial American-based agency, 24/7 Ticket Service, is offering to sell via the Internet tickets it claims are provided by Fifa-approved operators.

The spokeswoman said: "Fifa and the CFO are investigating all reports of tickers being sold on the Internet and through unauthorised sources at inflated prices. We are taking this very seriously."

asked to prove their sources. If they are found to be contrawarned in stop. If they persist. the CFO hopes to take legal actinn to stop them. "Our lawyers are looking, country by country, to see what action we can take

wnman said. The CFO has already taken actinn against a company in have been allocated to French France which was advertising fans, 20 per cent to Fifa (fur

as soon as possible," the spokes-

The CFO said that anyone that it was buying and selling found selling tickets suspected tickets. The CFO stopped the nf being unauthorised would be trade by asking a newspaper to stop carrying the agent's advertisements and by threatening vening CFO rules, they will be the agent with legal action. The CFO said it was also looking into other similar cases in France.

The organisers also clarified yesterday precisely how many tickets are available for each game and how they will be allocated. Around 61 per cent of the stadiums' net capacities

competing teams' fans and national federations), 12 per cent to sponsors (around a third of these being for French sponsors) and around seven per cent to Fifa-approved tour op-The CFO also pointed nut

that the number of tickets actually available during the World Cup is considerably fewer than has been widely re-

England's opening game, for example, on 15 June against Tunisia, takes place in the

60,000-capacity Stade Vélo drome in Marseilles. The capacity for World Cup games however, will be 50,000 at most and possibly less

This is because the media platform for journalists and TV cameras takes up the space of 8,000 seats, up to 1,000 scats have been set aside for VIP use. and other seats will not be used because their view will be obscured for a variety of reasons (including TV cameras).

World Cup tickets on the Internet, page 20

# Shearer poised to make comeback

There was good news for Newcastle and England supporters yesterday when Kenny Dalglish announced that Alan Shearer was ready to return to action. Carl Liddle reports.

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, has promised to make a "responsible" decision on Alan Shearer's fitness before today's game with Bolton at St James'

Dalglish yesterday revealed that Shearer had completed a full training session without suffering any adverse reaction to his injuries and would be considered for selection.

The England striker has been out since damaging ankle ligaments in the Umbro tournament at Goodison Park last July.

"Alan is in consideration. He's done everything expected of him in training," Dalglish said. "He's gone through all the extensive routines he has to go The fee, believed to be just over

Middlesbrough have agreed a

£4m fee with Coventry for strik-

er Dion Duhlin, after he turned

down a £3m contract at High-

field Road worth £16,000 a

Viv Anderson, Boro's assis-

tant manager, said: "Dublin is

a good player who can play in

several positions. We have agreed a fee but there is a lung

way to go before he walks in the

will sign for us. Transfer talks

have not started with the play-

er. We are hoping to hear some-

thing in the next 48 hours."

week on Tuesday.

Middlesbrough agree £4m

fee for unsettled Dublin

just a little bit of soreness after Tuesday's practice match."

Shearer is poised to make his comeback, but Dalglish stressed that he would not take risks with his £15m striker. "We'll make a decision on Alan as responsible to be stupid but he's done very very well in training and I repeat - he's in consideration."

At Shearer's old club, Blackburn Rovers, manager Roy Hodgson has made a surprise fom bid for the Italian striker Pierluigi Casiraghi. Hodgson is waiting for a reply from Lazio about an inquiry on the table, that could now be activated, to bring Casiraghi to Ewood Park.

Lazio are trying to tie up a £13m deal for Chilean striker Marceln Salas, once a Manchester United target, with his club River Plate this weekend, which Hodgson hopes will mean that Casiraghi will be available.

A medical stands between Faustino Asprilla and a move from Newcastle back to Parma.

Wimbledon, Crystal Palace

Gordon Strachan, the

and Leicester have also been

linked with the former United

striker-with Palace already having had a £3.25m bid rejected.

Coventry manager, refused to

confirm Duhlin's imminent de-

parture, saying yesterday: "He

is in our team against Arsenal

extremely good. I would like to

think that this is not his farewell

match. I expect him to he here

for as long as we can keep him."

"He is playing as well as he

and he will captain the side.

through and has shown no re- £6m, has been agreed and the action to his injuries. There was deal seems likely to be completed over the weekend.

Sasa Curcic's proposed move to the Turkish club Besiktas has broken down, at least until the summer. The Aston Villa midfielder, signed from Bolton Wanderers 18 months ago, had been men," he said. "We're not going in Istanbul for talks with Beskitas' coach, John Toshack. Ruud Gullit has asked Fifa,

the game's world governing body, to help stop his players missing vital Premiership games through international games. The Chelsea manager's squad could be depleted by friendlies and training camps leading up to the World Cup, and Gullit is hoping for some give and take.

"We are still arguing to keep our players here," he said. "They earn their money here. Their priorities must be here. I'm not at war with Fifa. I just want to explain the situation and I hope I can rely on a bit of compassion."

Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon chairman, has asked for patience from Dons supporters after a plan to move the club to a new purpose-built venue near their old Plough Lane ground fell ty, parking, layout and feasibility have caused the club to go back to the drawing board.

"If a suitable site exists, then I'm confident the council will help us find it and make it work," Hammam said.

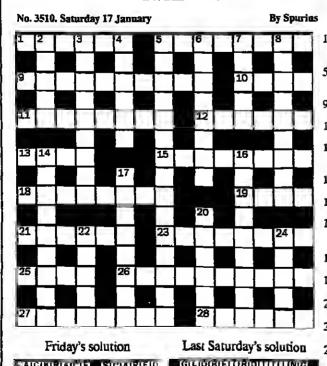
The French goalkeeper Bernard Lama is back at West Ham after failing to secure a move to a club in France and is now set to stay for the rest of the season. Lama is unhappy that he has not been given a chance after joining the Hammers on lnan and returned home last week to try to find first-team fonthall in order to keep his World Cup hopes alive.

Premiership preview,



Report, page 17: Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Empics

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



door. It is not hard and fast he ever has and our relationship is

### ACROSS

University students found penning Greek letter difficult (6) Improvement achieved in theatre by taking out a few lines? (4-4)
Quaintly picturesque elder

wood left to grow wild (4-6)

10 Hint of orange in Benedictine spells ruin (4)

11 Large Latin American com-

munity not in favour of tucking into milk pudding (8) Everyone comes round night before exam (I-5)

Record shows island's in care of District Commissioner (4) 15 One's in a splint having suffered uncontrolled descent

18 Disease present in grape, all shrivelled up (8)

What was no at the Coliseum - The Robe? (4) 21 Let's do something with your hair! (6)

around head of Gulf (8) 25 Young girl having a month in France and Germany (4) 26 Reported sick first - that's

27 Spray making one moister, 28 Team still to go by overhead

t7 Personal boosters, say initially optimising effects of drugs? (3-5)
20 Duke's involved in race round day centre (6) 22 Means of communica-

grave (9)

DOWN

Old US President intro-

ducing a measure origi-nally from Europe? (5)

Ad one client pulled to

lavatory, note (6)
Lcft-wing sympathiser
and Romany chap
changing places (6-9)
Old man's beard held in
by elastic grouphy a me-

by elastic, roughly a me-

Deposit daughter's car-ried in box (5)

Efflorescence running

across East River (9)

tangle turns ugly (9)

16 Positioned funerary re-

ceptacle in priental

14 In final stage of game

hits, all the same (9) Thing for scrubbing

tion whereby doctor gets medicine sent up (5) 24 Subject English master's included in article (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Cressword, P. O. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Il Fielding, London E1; R Finch, Bridgend; E George, Holywell; J McIntosh, Glasgow; N Tabor,

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### RUGBY UNION

### Yates' legal team pushes for delay in ear-biting hearing

Lawyers representing Kevin Yates, the Bath prop suspended pending further investigations into last weekend's ear-biting scandal, are attempting to delay next week's eagerly awaited disciplinary hearing.

Chris Hewett says that whatever the timing, the West Country club are determined to get at the

The barrack room lawyers whn inhahit every rugby clubhouse in the land may have to wait longer than they think for a solution to the Great Bath Ear-Biting Mystery. The legal team representing the prime suspect, Kevin Yates, say they have been given insufficient time to prepare their defence and are pushing for a postponement of the internal

hearing scheduled for Tuesday. Yates, the 26-year-old loosehead prop capped twice by England in Argentina last summer, was one of three Bath front-rowerscited for foul play by London two or three days following the meeting on 20 February.

Scottish after Simon Fenn, the alleged incident. 1 promise you, Exiles' flanker, suffered a serious injury to his left ear during a cup tie at the Recreation Ground a week ago. Yates' fellow prop, Victor Ubogu, was cleared by Scot-

tish on Wednesday and yesterday, the same officials publicly exonerated Federico Mendez, the third member of the triumvirate. If the Londoners expected Bath to greet the news with a fan-

fare of trumpets, they were mistaken. "It is up to them to decide if apologies are in order," said Tony Swift, the Bath chief executive. "I've on idea why they felt the need to cite all three players. We've collected evidence from both sides and there has not been a mention of either Mendez or Ubogu, but we're not prepared to get into a slanging match over it. This is not a game to be won, a competition to see who can issue the best press release.

"I can only describe the last few days as horrific. People have been baying for action and believe me, I would love to get to the truth of the matter; get it sorted and get on with running this rugby club. However, it's going to be far more difficult to reach that

it's not an easy situation." The tribunal will be chaired by an independent legal expert and made up of two club directors, neither of whom will have been involved in the investigation, and two dub members, almost certainly players, of his own

London Scottish said in a statement that Fenn is making a good recovery under the circumstances "hut has suffered a temporary loss of hearing in his left ear. Understandably, he has been further upset and depressed by the outrageous comments made by Philip Bliss."

Bliss, honorary surgeon to the Bath club but not one of the medical staff on duty last week, suggested that Fenn's injuries might not have been caused by a bite. Yesterday, Swift continued to distance the club from their own medic's point of view.

 The unions of France, Scotland, Ireland and Wales confirmed in Paris yesterday that Italy should be invited to participate in the championship from 1999-2000. The Rugby Football Union will make their stage than anyone imagined in the decision at their next council

ELEVEN PAGES OF SPORT BEGIN ON PAGE 14

> IN MONDAY'S 20-PAGE **SPORTS** SECTION

### THE MONDAY INTERVIEW

Chris Sutton talks to lan Stafford about life back at the top

Chris Hewett watches Jeremy Guscott return to the fray as Bath take on Newcastle

Phil Shaw reports on the draw for the qualitying groups of the European Championship

Betheir City

draggo mais as increasingly

batting lets yo

Bar Giggs wi

PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING



# Lay your bet on a bishop's blessings

Once the province of bored yuppies at their City desks, a . bizarre form of gambling is becoming increasingly popular. Spread betting lets you make a mint or lose your shirt, on any subject ranging from shareprice movements to the exact minute Ryan Giggs will slot the next one in. Clifford German examines the odds.

forcest Bay years

THE MONDA

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War was falled

Business serve

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A September 1

TO STEEL SECTION

The Party of the

المنتيمين المستهدد

المحتى وسيدين

NTERVIEN

et touts

Betting used to he a simple pleasure. You took a punt on Happy Lad in the 3.15 at Wincantoo. If he romped bome ahead of the field, you went to collect your winnings. If oot, the slip was a further example of the futility and danger of gambling addictioo. The "worst" that could happen, however, was that you lost a pre-determined stake, something you decided for yourself when you placed the bet.

That has changed. The latest and certainly the fastest way to lose your shirt is spread betting. The fad started as a way of increasing the range of odds, by gambling on a range of possible results. Unlike conventional gambling, however, the amount you win or lose depeods oo how close you come to the "spread". a mid-point set by the bookmaker.

The bookmaker chooses the most probable result, sets a small range, or spread", either side of it, and you bet which way either side of that central spread the result will be. If you think

### HOW SPREAD BETTING WORKS

Take, for example, a spread bet on the £10 = £260. If there are no goals by timing of the first goal in a soccer match. The bookmaker offers a "spread" from the 36th to the 40th minute, in it expects such a goal might be scored.

You think the first goal will come early, so you make a "sell" bet at, say, £10 a minute. If the first goal is scored in the 10th minute you win (36-10) x

the spread is too high you make a "sell" bet, which means you believe the result will come in under the bookmaker's estimate. Conversely, if you believe the spread is too low you make a "huy" het and hope the bookie has got it wroog the other way round. Then sit back and

watch the actioo. Roderick Green, a City-based fund manager and fanatical West Ham supporter, knows all about the triumphs and tribulations of spread betting. "Last week, I had a tenner 'sell' on West Ham scoring the first goal in the first 20 minutes of the Coca-Cola quarter-final with Arsenal," he says. "The Hammers' goal came in ot about 17 minutes, so 1 made about £70 because the bookies had a spread of 25 to 28 minutes for that to hap-

pen. Trouble is, Arsenal won 2-1 anyway." The original spread-betters were almost without exception young, rich and heavily testosteroned City types. But

Conversely if you took out a "huy" bet you would make  $(90-40) \times £10 =$ £500 from a nil-all draw. But a firstminute goal would cost you £390.

the 37th minute, however, you are

oursing a £10 loss. If there is a late

goal you are in trouble, and if the

match ends nil-all you are in very deep

doo-doo: you have lost £540.

the South-East Spread betting was invented in the

and was going up and down rapidly. The craze has since crossed the

according to Ladbrokes, its spreadbettiog clieots now include artisans and policemen, and eveo a professional golfer and a weather forecaster. A quarter of earn between £10,000 and £20,000 a year, nearly 60 per cent are between 35 and 54, and half live outside

Sixties by the bookmakers Coral to encourage gambling on movements in the FT 30 share index. It was extended hy City professionals who set up the IG Index in 1974, initially to let colleagues bet oo the movements in the gold price which had been was decontrolled in 1972

species barrier to include sport and polrics. IG is the leading expert on political hetting. Sports betting is dominated by the Sporting Index which has almost half the market, Ladbrokes and William

Hill, which employ teams of experts to halance the risks by setting spreads and constantly updating them. Angus Loughran, "Statto" in the Funtasy Football television programme featuring David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, started life as a Ladhrokes soccer pundit.

Punters can bet oo everything from the performance of the favourites at a race meeting to the oumber and timing of goals, to how many yellow cards will be shown in a game, the sum of the numhers on the shirts of all the goal-scorers, the number of games in a round of the Wimbledon tennis championships, or the number of ducks in a Test series.

Last year's favourite punt, in which millions were wagered - and lost - was on the scale of the future Labour administration's Commons majority. This year, the hig event is the World Cup. Sporting lodex is offering a spread of 166 to 169 goals for the 64 matches.

Ladbrokes has devised special cootracts to limit gains and losses, to reduce risks and attract nervous oovices. But for the really committed it also offers in-running bets, which allow punters to offset what might be losing bets while the events are actually taking place.

Spread berting is only done over the telephooe. Punters must opeo an account and, after checks, are granted a credn limit.

It is important to realise that, unlike conventional hets, dehts from spread betting are legally enforceable and bookies have the right to take defaulters to court to recover debts.

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### INSIDE

The said of the last 5/JONATHAN DAVIS Cronies cause Asia's slump

7/JOHN WINDSOR **Brit Art at** new peaks

9/PAUL SLADE **Taxing** the tips

10 CHIMES RUPPERT Used cars are better value

WILSON Straw roofs are hot stuff

O WARY



# High noon on the high street

line against this development.

construct a "Resistance Front"

against high transfer values -

to no avail, as it now turns out.

with savings and pensions, is

a cold new dawn, as some es-

tablished players (far too few

for now) realise that, to main-

tain their grip on the market,

they will have to deliver comp-

etitively priced products. One

by-product of this is that the

old high street-based branch

staff will he sacked in their

thousands over the next few

years. But the reality is that

this would have happened

anyway, and there's not much

we can do about it purely as

is extract the best possible

card has issued an eight point

tad more credible had it not

price out of their war.

Bank and building society

What we are seeing, both

In fact, it even went so far

### NIC CICUTTI

PERSONAL FINANCE IOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Few people would describe ahle, because it has taken so me as a war fiend, but if there long for many insurers to react to the challenge from is one thing I am enjoying at their telephone-based rivals, present, it is the open warfare who have followed this strathetween financial services egy for several years. Astonproviders, all competing for their rivals' customers. ishing, because ScotAm had tried desperately to hold the

Earlier this week, Halifax announced it is to open a 24hour telephone-based savings account. Premium Savings a few years ago as to try to Direct. The account offers instant access to funds up to (a secret cartel, actually) twice a year and will pay from 7.3 per cent gross on deposits over £10,000, rising to 7.85 per cent gross on above £40,000. Standard Life, the mutual insurer, launched its high-interest account last week.

Meanwhile, both Scottish Amicable, the formerly mutual insurer taken over last year by Prudential, and First Direct, the telephone-based financial provider, this week system will be weakened, launched separate versions of low-cost pension plans.

Without going into detail on the charges, which come in helow many of their competitors, what unites them is their willingness to face the fact that people are likely to consumers. What we can do halt contributions into personal pensions for perfectly sensible reasons.

Consequently, Direct Line On a separate note, Barclayand ScotAm are promising not to penalise customers if they checklist for customers in fihalt contributions early. They are saying that if policyholders Xmas and January spending switch a personal pension to spree. Its advice might he a another scheme in the first few years of its life, the "transfer also run a huge "Don't Put It value" paid out will reflect far Off, Put It On" TV advertising more closely than before the campaign throughout Dec-

amount actually paid in ember, coupled with advice to
This is both incremarkable cardbolders to skip that
and astonishing. Unremarkable month's credit card payment.

MONEY MAKEOVER

# How to bridge a future gap in income

Name: Colin and Sarah Chadfield Ages: 43 and 26

Occupations: Fire Brigade officer and Fire Brigade controller

The problem: Colin and Sarah, from North Yorkshire, have a 13-month-old son, George. Colin, who joined the service in 1981, earns about £34,000 while Sarah, who joined in 1992, earns about £17,000.

Both are members of their occupational pension scheme, which provides an inflation-proofed pension based on a multiple of income against their years of service. But although Colin will receive a maximum pension if he stays with the service until retirement, Sarah is contemplating reducing her hours. Another option might be to give up work temporarily to care for George.

They also have some windfall shares from Halifax and Norwich Union and an investment in a Co-op six-year bond, which should pay out any increase in the FTSE 100 index plus 25 per cent at maturity in 2000.

Their greatest concerns are how to provide for George's college education and how to bridge the income gap when Colin stops work hut Sarah still has more than 20 years to her own retirement. Another issue is that of protection if either of them dies.

The adviser: Dehhie Sotheran, principal at Three Counties Assurance Services, Gothic House, Barker Gate, Nottingham, NGI 1JU, 0115 2230. The advice: Colin and Sarah both have death-in-service benefit of twice pensionable salary, with more benefits if

so at present there is enough life cover to ensure that the main liability, the .mortgage, would be repaid.

As the chance of suffering a serious

As for saving for the future and

My recommendation is to invest the money in a maximum investment plan (MIP) - set up in joint names. Because there is an element of life cover,

I would suggest using Skandia Life.

However, over the longer term this could be affected by many factors, so I would suggest that life cover of £75,000 be taken out on Colin. This would provide additional funds to enable Sarah to continue in employment and support George until he's completed his education. I would also suggest that in Sarah's case life cover of £150,000 is sought, as Colin, George's carer, could be left in a vulnerable position in the event of her death.

illness or injury is many times greater than death before retirement, I would recommend that critical illness cover, which pays out on diagnosis of a range of diseases, be incorporated within these arrangements. Scottish Provident offers cover, increasing each year in line with inflation, for £62 per month for Colin and £27 per month for Sarah.

George's education, their provision for the young boy at present is a Halifax savings account into which they put his child allowance, I'm under the impression they would like it to work harder but in order to do that I think we need a vehicle with no access before 10 years.

should the worst happen, money would still he available to George.

death is attributable to injury at work. It allows contributions to be varied from



Colin and Sarah Chadfield with their son George: saving child benefit in a MIP could provide £15,000

year to year without affecting the withdrawal of benefits free from personal tax 10 years after taking out the plan.

Child benefit is paid at £11.05 per week. I would suggest rounding it up to £50 per month, which would, based sum of £14.900 when George is 16.

Their investments comprise £12,000 on deposit, premium bonds to the value of £700 each, a Co-op Bond worth £8,000, a single company PEP with Halifax worth some £4,000 and Norwich Union shares of £3,500.

I would suggest they place a larger proportion of their money on deposit. They inform me that they need to keep best rates [The Independent publishes "best-huys" each week - see page 6].

As for the six-year bond, it is a joint policy, so would normally be allocated on a 50/50 basis between Colin and Sarah. The profit is only taxable if you on a return of 10 per cent, provide a are a higher-rate tax payer, therefore I would suggest assigning the policy to Sarah, who is not a higher-rate tax payer. They will need to get the Coop to prepare a deed of assignment.

As for retirement planning, Colin is one of those rare species who will retire on maximum benefits with a final salary, index-linked pension.

However, to make his pension

immediate annuity. This income is treated partly as return of capital, which is not taxable, so his income should be slightly better than if he took the full pension, all of which is taxable.

Sarah's situation is not so certain. If Sarah were to continue with the Fire Service, especially if she would be working full-time near her retirement age, it would be sensible to purchase added years to boost her pension."

Her smouth our

This is not the case, so I would suggest she starts contributing into a PEP straight away, at least for the next two tax years. Unlike a pension, Sarah does not have to be earning to contribute more tax efficient, I would suggest he and if she chose to semi retire before £6,000 liquid for immediate access. I takes the lump sum available at re- her pension kicked in, she could use would suggest shopping around for the tirement and purchase a temporary the PEP to supplement her income.

### UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/THE NEILL CLERK TAKE ONE FILM-FINANCE PARTNERSHIP

The product: Take One, a If, and only if, all goes well, have seen investors lose almost cent of it is "pre-bought" (paid Drawbacks and risks: Not all film-financing partnership open higher-rate taxpayers can hope everything. to the public, sponsored by for returns of 25 per cent a year, Neill Clerk Capital.

The deal: Take advantage of be spectacularly rewarding, with generous tax reliefs on risky film. Polygram estimated to have higher-rate taxpayer who puts company, much more than the £10,000 before the closing date, outlay on The Full Monty. Risks around £10,000 because of 40 20 February: Money is tied up are horrendous; turkeys such as per cent tax relief. Neill Clerk One films can only be TV docuntil July 2000 at the earliest. Resolution or Hudson Hawk will only invest in a film if 60 per umentaries.

Plus points: Film finance can investments by putting in at least made more than 30-times its in £6,000 is, in effect, investing

Neill Clerk has limited the downside with a combination of schedules. If the film bombs, it tax reliefs and "pre-sales". A is the Exchequer and the TV

a TV company seeking to fill its

To further reduce risk, "Take

for in advance of production) by of the investment is tax-relievthey may also lose money.

The investment is realised investor, that have lost money. only by selling rights to the invest in film. documentaries. Profits could Marks out of five: Three and exceed investment in a short, a ball, it is a constructed time - but they might not.

If new deals for films dry up, then the money invested may able. So higher-rate taxpayers have nowhere to go. It has to be may not only make nothing, spent by July 2000 or the tax reliefs may disappear. Verdict: The best way so far to

- Andrew Verity

Thought for the day

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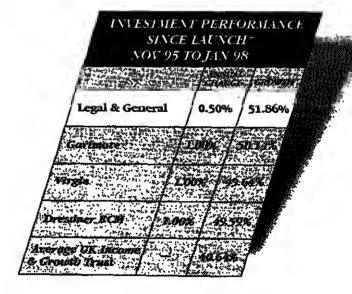
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longer be able to be reclaimed by PEPs investing in equity based unit treats. Both capital and income values are del comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in unit treats. Both capital and income values are del comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in unit treats. Full matters of the cost of out e Micropal/LGIM, on an offer to bid have based on all PEP charges with gross income re-invested from 01.11.95 (since in

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AT PERFURNANCE

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# Monthly discipline can yield handsome dividends



Strategies for market mayhem: South Korean employees instructed by their firm to attempt to reject negative thoughts last week. Monthly saving schemes in investment and unit trusts are another way to help smooth out peaks and troughs in the stock market

Over the longer term, investing in equities makes sense. Statistics show that in the past equity investment has usually produced better returns than other types of asset as long as you are prepared to invest for at least five years or more. But where to start? David Prosser investigates.

The trouble is, if you don't have a sizeable lump sum to invest, huying shares is difficult. Dealing charges, for example, eat into very small investments.

This is where the regular savings plans offered by most unit and investment trust companies come into their own. These are funds which offer exposure to stock markets without investors having to buy shares directly. They provide an alternative means of buying units for anyone prepared to put away a regular amount each month. Many funds allow you to invest from as little as £25 a month via a standing order or direct debit from your hank account.

These savings schemes are attractive for several reasons. "First of all," says Emma Weiss of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif), "a regular savings scheme makes stock market investment accessible to even the smallest investor. And investing by direct debit imposes a useful discipline on savers."

Funher, nearly all the regular savings plans allow you to make the occasional lump-sum contribution to your fund when your finances permit.

Over time, small monthly investments

will add up to sizeable sums. Autif reckons £50 a month in an average UK equity income unit trust would have amassed around £4,200 over five years to last August.

Investing monthly also means that you do not have to worry about timing. Share prices rise and fall from day to day and even professional investors and fund managers frequently get their timing wrong. But regular savers avoid the worst problems of timing because their investment plans will smooth out the peaks and troughs. When the price of your unit or investment trust falls, you'll get more units or shares for your monthly payment. This can be particularly useful when, as has been happening recently in a number of Far Eastern countries, including South Korea, markets suffer from potentially prolonged financial crises.

In addition, regular savings schemes are very flexible. Most will let you change the amount you invest each month without penalty. And you can usually have any income your investments earn reinvested in the fund. If you invest with a manager that offers several unit or investment trusts, you will probably also be able to switch between funds on preferential terms.

Choosing a regular savings plan is no different to picking any other investment. First, find the fund with a savings scheme that suits you best. Work out how much you can afford to invest each month, remembering that you are likely to be tying up this money for several years or more to gain the best benefits. Then, simply fill in the application form and set up a direct debit.

Charges are important for all investors, regular savers included. Usually, a proportion of each monthly investment goes to the fund provider, which can be as much as 5 per cent with a unit trust.

Over time, investment performance is more important than charges, but avoid paying through the nose if other funds with similar performance records are cheaper. According to the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), most investment trust schemes charge 1 per cent or less.

There are a few unit trust management companies that charge monthly cash fees rather than a percentage of your fund. Regular savers with Virgin's index tracking fund, for instance, pay a £2 monthly administration fee, which equates to 4 per cent of a £50 investment but just 1 per cent of a £200 monthly contribution

You can also put up to £6,000 worth of unit and investment trusts into a personal equity plan (PEP) in the current tax year. All the income and capital growth earned in a PEP is tax free but, if you don't use up your capital gains tax allowance each year - £6,500 in 1997/98 - your will only he saving on income tax. Also, you need to check for PEP charges, as these are additional to what you pay for your

regular savings scheme. Remember though: when PEPs are replaced in 1999 by individual savings accounts (ISAs) you will only be allowed to transfer £50,000-worth of PEP investments. That is discussed on page 4.

Autif and AITC publish free fact sheets on savings schemes in unit and investment trusts. Call 0181-207 1361 and 0171-431 5222.

'The Independent' has published a free Guide to Making your Investments Work for You', written by Steve Lodge, personal finance editor on the 'Independent on Sunday' and sponsored by Wesleyan Financial Services. Call 0800.137 9749, or fill in the coupon on page 6.

# Bank on setting something aside

To get the most out of your money you need to decide what you are saving for, Is it an emergency pot for the proverbial rainy day, or are you saving for something specific such as a holiday? Then you should have some idea of how long to plan to save for and how much notice you are prepared to give when you want access to your money.

If you want instant access you no longer have to accept pitifully low rates of interest. The best deals tend to be on ng society that send you a cheque by return of post.

But some huilding societies, such as Nationwide, now offer instant access postal accounts with a cashpoint card for use in emergencies. You can open this account with just £1 and interest starts at 6.7 per cent, rising to 6.85 per cent for over £10,000 and 7 per cent over £25,000.

It is also worth checking out the instant access accounts

notice postal account, which pays 7.65 per cent on £2,500.

For those prepared to save a there is a wide range of accounts rate of interest. Bradford & Bingley, for example, offers 7.15 per cent if you agree to save a fixed amount between £10 and

counts on offer for taxpayers. "Tessus are due to be replaced

in April 1999 by the new ISAs [individual savings accounts]. so it makes sense to open one now if you can." says Darren Stevens of Chelsea Building Society. "They still make good sense because any Tessa opened prior to

the introduction of JSAs can be seen through to the end of its term. Regular savers and lump tage of Tessas as long as they can." - Abigail Montrose

offered by the new-style banks run by supermarkets and insurance companies. Among the hest instant access accounts is Sainsbury Bank's, which pays a flat rate of 6.5 per cent on savings of £1 or more, while Scottish Widows Bank offers 6.9 per cent on balances of £500 or more.

Postal accounts requiring a notice period tend to offer better rates of interest but usually require a relatively high minimum balance. For example, Chelsea Building Society's POST-tel Opinstant access postal accounts, tion 40 postal account requires which typically involve sending a minimum balance of £5,000 a withdrawal form to the bank and 40 days' notice before making a withdrawail in return you earn 7.55 per cent interest. If you are prepared to give a longer notice period, you could consider Legal & General Bank's 60-day

> set amount on a regular basis save a set amount for a fixed period in return for an enhanced

£100 a month for three years.

If you are able to save for five years, you should open a taxexempt special savings account (Tessa). You can save up to £9,000 - £3,000 in year one, £1,800 in years two, three and four, and £600 in year five. Tessas are tax-free providing you do not withdraw more than the net annual interest each year. This makes them the best paying ac-

available. You usually have to sum investors should take advan-

13% p.a.\* TAX-FREE.

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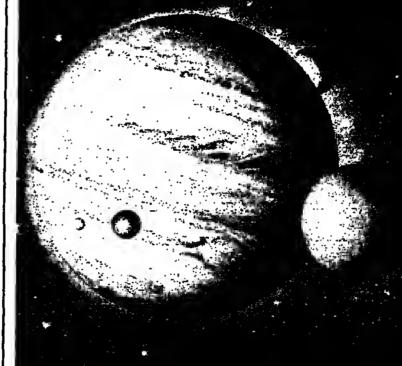
For exemple, if you'd invested £100 per month in our UK Stockmarket Fund when it was launched in January 1991, you'd have seen your money grow to £12,696. That's an average of over 13.1% p.a.\* Better still, you wouldn't have had to pay a penny in tax.

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"Source: Micropel Ltd, buying price to selling price from 1.3.91 - 29.12.97, the UK Stockmerker Fund had an everage annualised growth rate of 13.13%, for an investment of £100 per month.

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**UNIT TRUST GROUP** PERFORMANCE RANKINGS

JUPITER 16 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 2 2

Schroder 136 120 113 107 85 75 58 68 51 31

43 56 57 50 30 28 37 39 43 33

Perpetual 60 '72 55 51 22 7 7 14 6

39 38 39 40 40 44 51 47 72 69

72 60 50 41 10 17 28 63 22 9

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# 4/REGULAR SAVING

# Prepare for new accounts

Once upon a time, tax-free investments meant PEPs and Tessas, two savings vehicles introduced by the previous Conservative administration. But from April 1999 Labour's brave new plan, the Individual Savings Account, comes into force. Simon Read guides us through its implications.

To anyone planning to make regular savings. the proposed Individual Savings Accounts (1SAs) look like offering valuable tax henefits. After they are introduced in April 1999, they will allow you to save up to £5,000 a year in a variety of different ways, including up to £1,000 in a deposit account and up to £1,000 though an insurance company policy - including old-style with-profits endowments which have a element of life cover.

The attraction of ISAs will be that all gains will he free of personal tax liabilities. As such, they will be replacing the existing personal equity plans (PEPs) and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). Indeed, cash in PEPs and Tessas must be transferred to the new account. PEP holders will have until 5 October 1999 to transfer their savings into an ISA. Those with a Tessa will have to wait until it reaches maturity before they have to transfer the proceeds,

Both PEPs and Tessas have been responsihle for encouraging many people to get the regular savings habit. Some financial experts, however, claim that the new ISAs will not be such an attractive proposition. This is largely because of the planned introduction of a new lifetime limit of £50,000 on the accounts.

The savings habit will not flourish as the Government would have wished, even as we enter the 1998 PEP season, unless they realise that a lifetime limit is a disincentive for people to save now," says Marc Sylvain, managing director of Fidelity Investments. "We are urging the Government to reconsider this element of the ISA package. It serves neither the investors' nor the Government's interests."

Don Clark, managing director of Wolverhampton-based IFA Torquil Clark, agrees. "I think the imposition of such an arbitrary limit will have a detrimental effect on savings," he says. "The huy it or lose it mentality which has helped made PEPs a success will disappear. I would like to see the limit abolished altogether pensate for the disadvantages. or increased to £100,000."

This could happen. The ISA proposals are Independent financial adviser Towny Law has proprecisely that - proposals. Interested parties have until the end of January to persuade the Government to change its mind on any aspect of the ISA. This includes the proposed £50,000 life- Berkshire SL1 3PB, or phone 0345 868244.

time limit. Don Clark, for one, thinks a rethink on this is highly possible. "I feel that the £50,000 limit is far from final at the moment," he says.

You can help change the Government's mind. If you wish to lobby for a higher limit, write to your MP or to Keith Brown at the Inland Revenue, Room 234, Southwest Wing. Bush House, London WC2B 4RD.

Until the exact details of the ISA are finally announced, it will be a little difficult to know how to prepare for the new savings accounts. Do nothing yet, suggests Andrew Barker, operations director of Skipton Financial Services. the independent financial advice arm of the Skipton Building Society. He cautions investors: "The best approach is to wait and see. ISA providers will not be able to publish details of their new accounts for a considerable time, not while the rules that will govern them can still be subject to change."

All PEP holders will get statements of their accounts in April 1999. They will then have until October to switch to a new ISA that their plan manager is likely to be offering them. To make the transfer at the time, they will simply need to return a tear-off slip. Most PEP managers have already committed themselves to making no additional charges for the transfer.

Tessa holders will have until their accounts mature before they have to transfer the cash into an ISA. Wise savers will therefore start a new Tessa between now and April 1999 to get the additional tax allowance. You are allowed to save up to £9,000 over five years in a Tesso. Anyone starting a Tessa before April 1999 will, therefore, have five years of the tax benefits. They will also he able to save up to £5,000 in an ISA for the additional tax-free gains.

"The ISA heralds some improvements over its tax-free predecessors. As well as allowing instant access to your fund, something that you cannot do with Tessas and some of the other tax-free savings schemes without losing the tax advantages, they will also widen the range of qualifying investments to National Savings and life assurance," points out Mr Barker.

"However, these improvements pale into insignificance when compared with the eventual removal of tax credits for dividends and the introduction of a lifetime savings limit of £50,000 for investors."

Despite these shortcomings, ISAs will still offer a savings haven, free from income and capital gains tax, and you might even win one of the 50 monthly prizes of £1,000 to com-

duced a free consumer guide to Individual Savings Accounts which is available from Towry Law, Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough.

# How to retire in greater comfort

Saving regularly as part of pension planning is one of the most sensible things any of us can do. There are many ways to do this, but as Tony Lyons warms, the earlier you start, the

Relying on the state for a reasonable pension is foolhardy at best. The basic state pension in the future will not go very far and prohably won't keep anyone off the poverty line.

When the Government unveils its ideas about the new "stakeholder pension", which will provide a second-tier pension, later this year, it may go some way to filling the gap between being poor and being

comfortable in retirement. But to ensure an adequate income after you retire. you should start saving now.

"Lots of people put off starting a pension plan because they think they have left it too late," says Tony Woods, marketing director of Virgin Direct. But it's never too late. Obviously, the younger you start the better, but people should start as soon as they can." If you work for an employer

with a company pension scheme, then joining it will usually provide the best means of ensuring a comfortable retirement. Up to 15 per cent of your income can be saved in the cheme and you will receive relief at your top rate of tax on the money you plough in. You may find your company will contribute a reasonable amount, or even guarantee certain benefits to you at retirement, depending on length of service.

If there is no such scheme



where you work, you are selfemployed or you have other earnings, then you could look at personal pension plans. Don't be put off hecause they can be difficult to understand. have complex rules and have received bad publicity over the past few years because of had mis-selling in the 1980s.

The earlier you start, the better. To provide £1.000 a year of pension at today's prices at age 60, a 25-year-old man needs to save £35 a month in a personal pension, while a woman would have to contrihute £39. For a 30-year-old, the contributions go up to £40 and £45 a month respectively. But if you do nothing about your pension until you are 50, you

will have to pay in £101 or £113. Women pay more because they live longer, so they receive pensions for a longer period.

-We find that the higgest barrier to people starting a pension is that they don't believe how generous the tax breaks are," says Mr Woods. "A personal pension is the savings vehicle with the most mind-blowing tax hreaks."

This is because you get full tax relief on your premiums. If vou are a hasic-rate taxpayer. this means £1 of investment for every 77p you pay in. If you pay tax at the higher rate, it will cost you 60p. To put it another way, the Government tops up your contributions so that a may charge a fee if you want f250 investment will only cost to compare traditional com-

Step lively: The earlier you

begin paying into a pension

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

a basic-rate taxpayer £192.50 and a higher-rate person £150. Because of the generous tax relief, the rules on contribu-

tions are strict. Only earnings up to £84,000 can be taken into account for most people, and the percentage of this that can be invested is determined by your age, as in the table. Most pensions sold today.

are equity linked. This means that your savings are invested in stocks and shares. While these go up and down in value, over the long term they have outperformed all other conventional types of investment. While performance of the underlying investments is of the greatest concern, so is the charging structure imposed by the pension plan provider. In the past, personal pen-

sion plans attracted very high charges with significant penalties if payments were chariged or stopped. Nowadzys, with the rise of providers who sell direct, the charges are more reasonable while the newer plans have become more flexible.

So always look for a company with low charges and

Danies and	thetions
Pension cont	uoniniis
Age on	Maximum %
6 April	of earnings
Under 35	17.5
36-45	20
46-50	25
51-55	30
56-60	35
61-74	. 40

flexible rules. Independent financial advisers can help but panies with the newer breed of direct providers.

According to a number of recent surveys which looked at the projected values of various personal pension plans, companies that seem to offer the best returns include Equitable Life, Scottish Widows, Legal & General Direct, Eagle Star Direct and Virgin. The key to the ability of these companies to project higher than average returns "all boils down to our low running costs", says Nigel Webb, senior manager at Equitable Life. "If you have low expenses you can offer savers a good deal. We employ just 400 salespeople, who are paid salaries not commission, and they generate a lot of business."

Anyone taking out a pension plan has to stipulate their retirement date at the outset. The minimum age you can take the proceeds is 50. If you stop working earlier than the date you specified, you could be penalised, although many newer schemes do now allow for this.

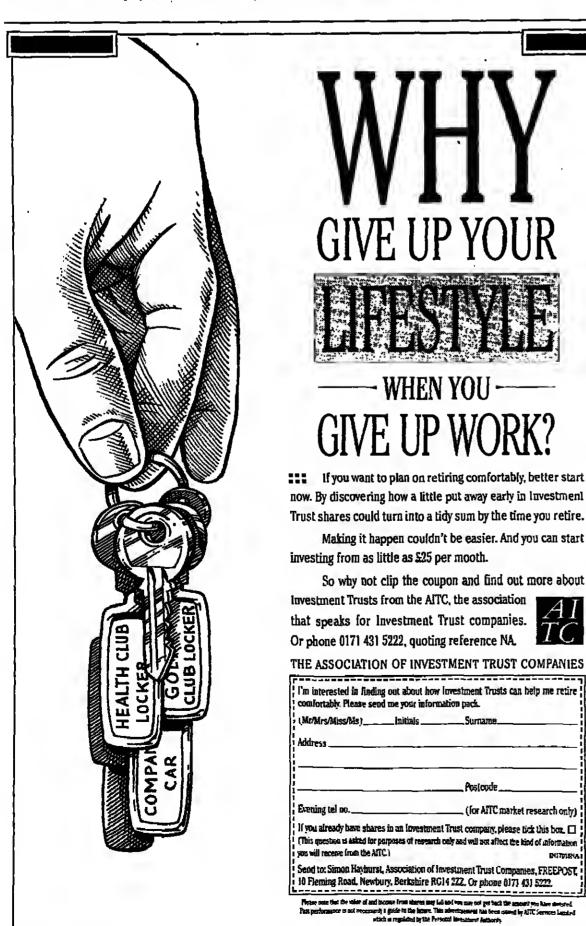
You should, therefore; choose a variety of ways of saving. Picking a number of different plans, with different retirement dates, is one solution so long as you stay within the overall contribution limits. You can also use personal equity plans, and individual savings accounts when they become available in 15 months time, as an additional way to invest for retirement,

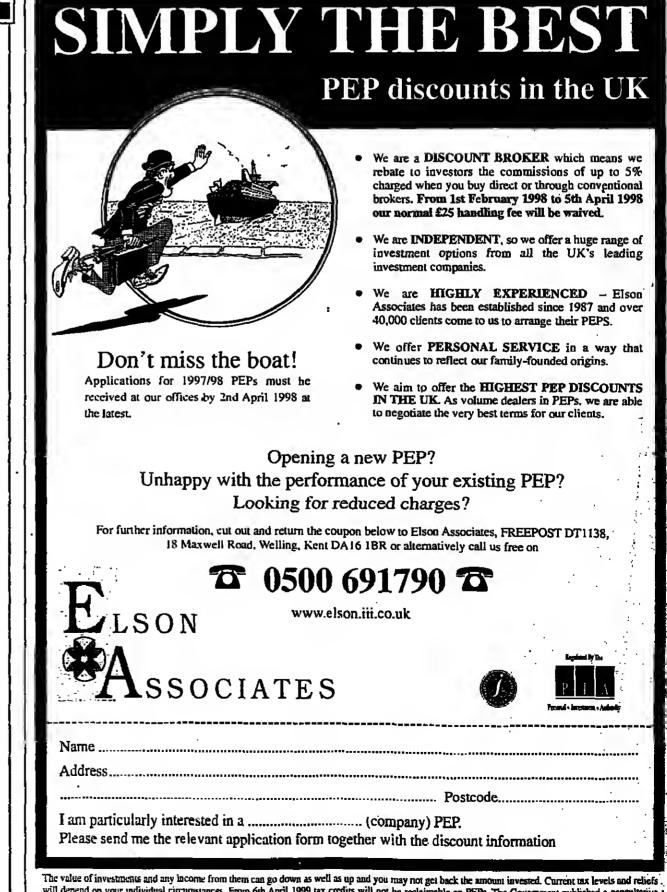
Whatever you do, make sure you that you regularly invest now so that you will be able to enjoy a comfortable retirement later. Most pension experts recommend that you save at least 10 per cent of your income. The older you are, or the later you start, the higher this should be.

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The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. From 6th April 1999 tax credits will not be reclaimable on PEPs. The Government published a consultance document in December 1997 on proposals for Individual Savings Accounts (ISA's) to be launched in April 1999. The terms and limits for converting an existing PEP into an ISA are being considered as part of the consultation. We do not offer advice as to the suitability of the investments you buy through us. If you have any doubt whether an investment is suitable for you, you should obtain expen advice.



JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

# The croynism at the heart of Asia's crisis

Despite the steady stream of news reports chronicling the latest events in Japan, Korea and Indonesia, I suspect few people in this country have any clear sense of exactly what is happening, beyond the feeling that crisis is probably an appropriate term for what is taking place.

My crystal hall is certainly no hetter than anyone else's, but what is clear is that there are two distinct sides to what is happening. One is the developing economic and financial crisis in a number of Asian countries, all of whom trade with each other and therefore are vulnerable to contagion from each other's problems.

At the root of the problem is the apparent indication that the so-called Asian miracle is running out of steam. The rapid growth of the past 20 years is slowing down, with many of the tiger economies which led the way now showing signs of losing their competitive edge. The Japanese economy has been stalled for several years now, with its Government unable to find effective measures to restimulate growth, hut what is new is that the second tier of Asian countries, such as Korea and Indonesia, are also now feeling the heat, with their currencies weakening and their industries afflicted by over capacity and rapidly disappearing demand.

This in turn has been compounded by a serious hanking crisis of the kind that traditionally follows periods of rapid growth. with many banks and hanking institutions which lent freely in the years of fat, finding themselves over exposed. This financial crisis has exposed many of the fault lines in the way that these countries have managed their financial affairs - too much cronyism. too many complex interparty loans, a collapse in collateral values, and so on (not that this is a problem from which western banks have been immune in the past!).

After years of effective state control, the Japanese have finally allowed a leading bank and a large stockbroking firm to go hust, hut there are many more financial instituno inflation to erode the value of their had dehts, it seems clear that it is going to take quite a long time for the bad debts and financial problems in many of the leading Asian countries to be worked out of the

The second aspect of the crisis is the reaction of the financial markets to this unfolding story of newly apparent economic problems. As always tends to happen in such circumstances, sentiment towards Asia as a focus of investment is rapidly turning sour. The wild exuberance which led many stockbroking firms to carry on peddling the merits of the Tokyo stock market when it was

ago, have also started to take fright at the over seven years (plus 60 per cent), hut down way the crisis is developing, retreating to "safer" bavens.

The stock market statistics tell their own story. Of the 15 largest developed country markets last year, only one went down last year - and that was Japan (which fell 21 per cent and is currently stuck in a trading range around the 14,000-15,000 level).

All the other 14 markets rose. Of the 11 leading stock markets in Asia, only three -China, India and Taiwan - rose in local currency terms. Most of the others were down, by anything between 20 per cent and 60 per cent over the year. Not surprisingly.

three years ago. It has lost nearly 80 per cent of its value over the period. But what now? There is no question that the crisis, in both economics and sentiment, is a real one. Conventional wisdom now is: avoid the region like the plague. It is too risky. But, of course, for many Asian countries the advice is far too late. The risk has been there from the beginning in many Asian countries: it is the flip side of the above average returns which the region has generated for most of the 1990s. The case for buying individual country funds outside Europe or the United States has always seemed weak to me, given the specific risks involved in many individual emerging markets. Regional

31 per cent over both one and three years.

Because of widening discounts, equivalent

investment trusts have turned in an even

worse performance. As these are average

results, some of the individual fund outcomes

are inevitably worse still - pity the poor in-

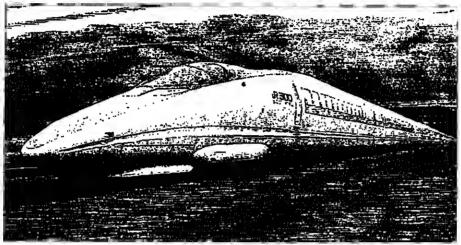
vestor who opted to huy a Thailand unit trust

than another. As I said last month, however, the case for putting a modest amount of money into a diversified emerging markets investment trust at a discount of 20 per cent is another matter. Provided you are a genuinely long term investor, the value looks attractive to me. It is, after all, when things are at their gloomiest that the hest hargains become available.

funds are not much better, in my view, un-

It will undoubtedly spill over and affect our own stock markets in due course, though how badly is impossible to say. The other lesson to remember is that just because markets keep going up, it does not mean they cannot be overvalued at the same time. Just look hack to what they were saying about how attractive Japanese shares still looked in 1988/89 on a p/e ratio of 60! Even in markets, where hopes are free and plentiful, reality has a nasty

habit of catching up in the end.



No longer like the builet train: Japan's economy has been stalled for several years

absurdly overvalued in the late 1980s is being virtually all UK unit and investment trusts replaced by unmistakable signs of anxiety in many markets.

Typically, Hong Kong, the most volatile of all the world's leading stock markets, is taking a lead again (was it only a year ago that the market was booming?), but institutional investors in Europe and the United States, who were merrily still buying into both tions which are technically insolvent. With the Asian and emerging markets story a year (excluding Japan) is still comfortably ahead

invested in Asia, either as country or regional funds, have taken a pasting over the post year.

The latest performance statistics paint a sorry picture. In the year to mid-December. for example, the average Japan-only unit trust was down by 28 per cent over one year, 39 per cent over three years and 3 per cent over seven years. The average Fur East fund

### **EMU** threatens housing boom and bust for Britain

The UK mortgage market may need a big shake-up before Britain is ready to join EMU. Paul Slade reports.

Bringing UK interest rates into line with continental ones to qualify for European Monetary Union in 1999 could bring a return to boom-or-hust for the UK bousing market, a new report warns.

Geoffrey Meen, of Oxford Economic Forecasting, an independent think-tank, says UK interest rates would have to fall by 2 per cent or 3 per cent to match those elsewhere in Europe. This could lead to renewed volatility for UK house prices, he argues.

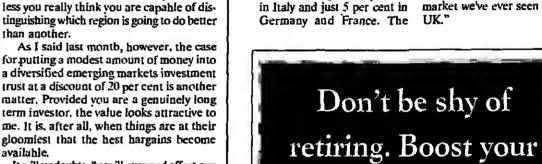
Cancelling out the effect of a 2 per cent drop in interest rates on joining EMU would mean an extra 3p in the pound on income tax. His preferred solution is a small subsidy for those taking a fixed-rate loan, to encourage UK borrowers to act more like those on the Continent, About 80 per cent of mortgage deht in the UK is variable rate, against 50 per cent in Italy and just 5 per cent in

higher the proportion of variable-rate debt, the more the country's bousing market will react to interest rate changes.

Mr Meen says the cost of fixed and variable-rate loans at the moment are close enough to need only a small subsidy, and he suggests mortgage interest relief (Miras) should be given only to those with a fixed-rate loan. But some mortgage experts are sceptical. lan Darby of independent mortgage advisers John Charcol doubts whether Miras alone would provide much of an incentive, particularly as the value of the relief is to drop to 10 per cent on 6 April this year. He says: "If you did have 2 per cent off interest rates, you could buy a five-year fix at about 6 per cent."

Simon Tyler of Chase de Vere Mortgage Management helieves the real impact of Britain joining EMU for UK borrowers would be other European lenders entering our

market, He says: "Once we'd been in EMU five years, it will he a more competitive market for borrowers as well. But, right now, we've got probably the most competitive mortgage market we've ever seen in the



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# The fool's approach to investment is not to be ieered at



ts in the UK

ROBIN AMLOT

INTERNET INVESTOR

After the way the stock market has been behaving recently. plenty of investors, both professional and private, may be feeling a little foolish about some of their investment decisions. However, there is one wehsite which glories in its

foolishness - The Motley Fool. The original Motley Fool site was first established in the US in 1993, which makes it positively ancient hy weh standards. In an interview on the husiness television channel CNBC, one of the Fool's founders, Tom Gardner, commented: "It's your time horizon, really. We concern ourselves with 15 and 20-year

often focused just on the next 15 to 20 minutes." The Motley Fool name comes directly from Shakespeare's.4s You Like It. Jacques

returns. And the market has

says in Act II, scene VII: "A fool, a fool, I see a fool i' the forest, a motley fool", going on to say "I am ambitious for a motley coat" and "Motley's the only wear".

Motley was the panicoloured garment worn by Elizabethan court jesters.

The jester, as well as being a sort of medieval stand-up comedian and clown rolled into one, was also the only chap who could get away with telling home truths to the monarch without baving bis head re-

moved from his shoulders. The Motley Fool's stated aims are to educate, amuse, and enrich the individual investor. "to prove to you that the best person to manage your money is YOU on the grounds that no one will have your financial well-heing as close to their heart as you do yourself.

The site looks to demonstrate that the key to investment success is doing one's homework and that such "homework" can be fun. The website is dedicated to

creating wealth by investing in shares and only shares: not options, not futures, not commodities. The Fool is not even particularly fond of unit trusts and other mutual funds, given the costs of poorly performing fund managers.

Unusually, the Motley Fool is "foolish enough" to put its money where its mouth is. In addition to all the information and instruction the site carries. it also runs (bree teal-money model portfolios: the Fool Portfolio; the Boring Portfolio and

the Drip Portfolio. These demonstrate methods of portfolio management and are the closest the site actually

comes to giving stock "tips". However, to ensure that it is not laid open to charges of price manipulation, any changes to the portfolios are announced in advance of trade.

On the web, the Motley Fool is targeted at a US audience. However, it also offers a service designed for UK investors. Fool UK is part of the services offered by AOL UK. It does not tout specific

investment products. The website makes its money from carrying advertising, usage charges paid hy AOL, and selling books and a variety of other products in the Foolshop online.

Fool UK includes share prices, a guide to "Beat the Footsie", what it claims is an idiot-proof 10-step guide to investing in the UK market and daily market news.

In addition to this site content, Fool UK offers message hoards where AOL memhers can share their own investment ideas.

If you already have weh access you can see the US Motlev Fool site but you will not be able to view Fool UK unless you are a member of AOL. AOL, which used to call it-

self America Online hut now prefers the acronym, claims to be the largest internet service provider in the world, with 10 million members, including more than 250,000 in the UK. If you are not an AOL member, you can download AOL software and take out trial membership from the AOL website.

The Motley Fool website: www.fool.com .10L. nww.gol.co.uk

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### **BRIAN TORA**



### A little panic would not hurt

shortages drove up wages

and reduced competitiveness.

inevitable. The worry must be that social unrest could follow.

developed world has been,

don't paoic but a little bit of

panic may now be appropri-

ate. And we all need to keep

our fingers crossed that

things on the other side of the

world do not get too much

worse before they get better.

Brian Tora is chairman of the

investment strategy committee

The message so far for the

It is becoming rather difficult growth will be affected is to ignore the Far East. The undoubted. There is now roller-coaster ride in Hong Kong and other markets may seem of little consequence in the Square Mile, but we may yet find the Asian contagion is not confined to the Pacific Rim.

The UK investment community has had a long-standing love affair with the Far East and the arguments have been all too familiar: large populations with aspirations and a strong work ethic; high savings ratios; commercial flare. The trouble is that even though all these factors are present they oo longer work. So where did it all go wrong?

Dr Mahathir Mohammed, Malaysia's Prime Minister, recently extolled the virtues of his country. He likened the of manufacturing produc strong growth achieved to a river io flood. The rocks beneath the surface were coocealed by the floodwater. In this case the rocks appear to have been profligate lending. skill shortages and poor management. The speed at which Far East growth hit the buffers was quite alarming. And yet, this time last year, no one was expecting it.

Worries over the likely knock-on effects have been enough to generate a little introspection in the US market. Prices there have retrenched by some 10 per cent, but there is still little sign of panic in Wall Street, Indeed, the reaction in North America and Europe seems more like indifference. But does the end of a period

of high growth really matter? Much depends upon what at Greig Middleton, stockhappens oext. That world brokers.

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MORTGAGES

BEST BORROWING RATES

port their way out of trouble. UNISEGURED Indeed, given the devalua-Northern Rock. ... Ornot Line 406 (21/21 95% H tions, we can expect cheap Asian goods on offer here be-\$188.15 \_\_\_\_\_\_ fore long. That does not au-Royal Bank of Stanfand DB00 121125 gur well for some industries, SECURED ISECOND CHARGE) both in Europe and America. Chydradaic Rank . 0800 240024 Anysi Benk of Scotland 8800 121121 EK DEISK .... AREN 20 ME 22.5K to 2180K 3 years to mirror't Interestingly, it is the pace of growth in South-east Asia Prist Direct . 0345 100108 11.29 30% that helped create the prob-OVERDRAFTS lem. In some areas, skilt

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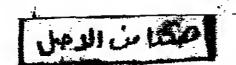
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COLLECT TO INVEST

# A new dawn for Modern **Brit Art?**

Private buyers are piling into the Modern British paintings market, which, in November sales, showed signs of blowing its top. John Windsor examines whether a peak has been reached.

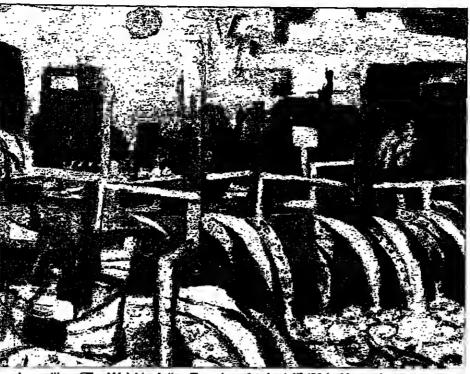
Some auctioneers are trumpeting a topdown revival of the market, which crashed spectacularly in 1991-92, leaving some speculators with paintings worth a third of what they had paid and Cork Street festooned with To Let signs.

The first auction since November's headline prices is at Phillips on Tuesday (11am) with estimates mostly under £1,000. Its target audience - new huyers with modest means - may well be confused: gong-banging for new Lowry and Spencer price records has become an annual event since the crash, while the market as a whole has been hauling itself up by its bootstraps. The leading dealer Leslie Waddington warns: "It's a gradual recovery, not complete - not a bad market, but not yet a strong one."

There is not much action in the £100.000-£200.000 range but the market under £20,000 is worth a look.

First point to note is that with dealers still strapped for cash and being outbid by private huyers (Sotheby's estimates 85 per cent of its buyers are private and Christie's estimates 70 per cent, a reverse of the pre-crash situation), marketmaking in specific names by dealers is only just beginning again. Susannah Pollen of Sotheby's reports that, whereas previously she could predict which lots would be carried off by which dealers, nowadays the hids are a product of "a hundred different whims" of private buyers. This makes it difficult for investors to spot price trends to follow.

These days, whenever a dealer is seen buying up a name, the private buyer com-



petition tends to pile in. For example, London dealer David Messum recently began hidding for the idiosyneratic figurative paintings of Julian Trevelvan RA (1910-1988), who exhibited at the first International Surrealist exhibition in London in 1936, was associated with the London Group, and whose work will have a touring retrospective curated by Nieholas Usherwood, beginning in October at the RCA, where Trevelyan taught Hockney print making.

Messum paid only £2,530 for Trevelyan's Cretan Spring landscape, estimated £2,500-£3,500 at Christie's South Kensington in September. But two months later, private bidders at Christie's King Street saleroom forced him up to £7.130 for Trevelyan's The Weir, which carried the same estimate.

Pre-recession, the dealers were the market-makers. They lent stability, knowing that they had to supply clients at reasonable prices while earning a margin for themselves. These days, outhid and empty-handed, they smart under the auctioneer's hollow, "thank you for your support" on their way out.

The consolation is that the new private huyers are, for the most part, not speculators likely to hust the market by dumping at the first tremors of a wobble in prices. Their taste is towards adventurous figuratives rather than the Impressionist style.

One dealer whose huying is worth watching is Spink-Leger, a marriage of two gallenes injected with new money

ARCRANA ARCANA A

last September by its owners, Christie's. They have been bidding aggressively for British watercolours and Modern Brits and will be holding a selling exhibition of 20th century British artists in April.

Among them will be Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, killed in the first World War. Ten of his pencil and pen-and-ink drawings of animals, hirds and people are in Phillips' sale next week, estimated at under £1,000. Spink-Leger will also he showing Sickert, William and Ben Nicholson, Innes, Yeats, Burra, Pasmore.

Spencer, Spear, Tunnard and Vaughan. If you think it demeaning to follow dealers, swot up on your art history and go for lesser-known members of the Mod Brit "schools" - Newlyn, Slade, Camden Town, Euston Road, Bloomsbury, St. ives. Neo-Romantic and London.

Underpriced but talented names can rise suddenly as bidders collectively realise that their low prices are unsustainable. The colourful, semi-abstract still lifes of Mary Fedden (born 1915) fell at auction by 50-60 per cent from their peak of 1988-90. They could be had for £2,000-£4,000 until last October.

Now they fetch £3,000-£8,500 and are still rising. Similar recognition may be descending upon another RA, Frederick Gore (b 1913), whose work is rare at auction. Somebody got a hargain when they bought his Spring Landscape, Clement's Reach, Meopham, full of vibrant blue and pink furrows, for £2.990 in Christie's November sale.

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Phillips (0171-629 6602); David Messum The ever-popular but much-derided (0171-437 5545)

pastels, oils around £2,500.

sunlit nudes of Ken Russell RA, which

have reached Fedden's prices and are

firming up still further, sell best if they

are recent. People seem to want to know

what the indefatigable 65-year old is get-

ting up to. Keith Vaughan's prices are

firming up, too, but the huying power

Do your own research on price

trends - individual auction results can

he misleading. For example, three

blocky paintings by William Scott RA

(1913-1989), who has benefited from

a critical re-assessment, failed to sell in

Sotheby's November sale. The art

trade press reported that the market for

him seemed to be running out of

steam. In fact, the hest Scotts are

fetching around £40,000, double 1989

values. Sotheby's estimates of up to

in Mod Brits, find a reliable dealer in

charge of selling a deceased artist's es-

tate, whose income depends upon max-

imising prices. David Messum is selling

the Impressionistic, Braque-like land-

scapes and still lifes of the Suffolk artist Peggy Somerville (1918-1975) at judicious

intervals. Her work is catalogued in a

hook, Peggy Somerville: An English

Impressionist, by Stephen Reiss, £25,

published by the Antique Collectors'

Club. Prices: from £500 for drawings and

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£60,000-£80,000 were over-egged.

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UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET

### Why it's worth becoming familiar with Footsie

the London stock market, whose changes in price are measured constantly to see how the market generally is moving," is the neat way that Gill Nott, the chief executive of ProShare, describes the Financial Times/Stock Exchange 100 index. The FTSE 100 is mentioned in most news bulletins and its progress is always featured whenever there is a crisis on one of the world's stock exchanges.

Affectionately known as the Footsie, it may be viewed as one of the market's barometers. It can be used as a yardstick against which to measure the performance of individual shares or a portfolio. It was launched on 3 January 1984 with a base of 1,000. When it broke through the 5,000 level on 6 August 1997, it meant the shares it represents had risen by a multiple of five in 13 years and 215 days.

One of the main reasons for the hirth of the Footsie was Chicago's then newly established Traded Options and Financial Futures market. So that London could match the services provided in Chicago, the City wanted a constantly up-dated index so that products could be developed to allow investors to hedge, or take a view on future market trends, with a single transaction.

Before the introduction of the Footsie there were only two stock market indices. The FT Ordinary Share Index, established in 1935, only comprises 30 constituents and was considered unrepresentative of the market generally. Also, it is an unweighted geometric index which, while curbing the effect of dramatic price movements, has a bias to downward comparison with their peers; turns over time. Furthermore it 17 were taken over or merged.

A completely fresh start was called for. An index with 100 constituents was chosen be- on 19 January 1984 when J and the Institute of Actuaries.

"The top 100 shares quoted on cause more than this number would not have resulted in speedy calculations, while less would not be an accurate way of measuring the market's performance. The companies are selected by their market capitalisation, which is simply the total number of shares they have issued muldplied by their price in the market. The

> Those selected account for just over 70 per cent of the total market value of UK shares. However, for various reasons, some companies are excluded. This may be because the company is considered to purposes, or it is a subsidiary ously, was reinstated. of a company already in the index or because it has a large, static shareholding. Technically, the Footsie is

a weighted arithmetic index, FTSE 100 which means that a change in price is weighted by the issued share capital of the company. Consequently, a 10 per cent movement in the shares of the smallest company in the index has less "weight" than a 10 per cent movement in the price of shares of the company which has the largest market capitalisation.

Naturally, values of companies are changing constantly. Nevertheless, alterations to the constituent list of members minimum. Normally a company will only be removed if it has fallen below 110 in its market value ranking. None the less, by the time the index celebrated its 10th hirthday, 42 companies had been removed from the original list. Of these, 23 had failed to keep pace with the market and shrank in was only calculated each hour. while Ferranti and British & Commonwealth had failed.

The first change took place

Rothschild replaced Eagle Star. Usually changes are made each quarter following the meaning of the FTSE Actuaries UK Indices Committee.

On 10 December this year, the Committee approved the inclusion of Mercury Asset Management (MAM), British Energy and Amvescap. RMC Group, Blue Circle Industries Footsie is therefore an index of and TI Group were excluded. Britain's 100 largest companies. The changes became effective on 22 December.

However, on 23 December Merrill Lynch's bid for MAM became unconditional. As a result, the Committee's rules concerning takeovers came into play and Blue Circle, be resident overseas for tax excluded just 24-hours previ-

The same rules were used

### When the passed 5,000 last August it meant shares had risen fivefold in 13 years

on 16 December following the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan to create Diageo. of the Footsie are kept to a On that occasion, Nycomed Amersham was admitted to the index. To ensure that natural occurrences, such as mergers and takeovers, are dealt with efficiently, the Committee has a reserve list of companies on which they may draw.

Responsibility for the design, management and calculation of London's stock market indices rests with the FTSE UK Indices Committee, an autonomous body sponsored jointly by the Loodon Stock Exchange, the Financial Times

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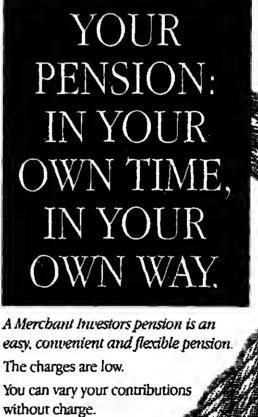
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declare their tips face on-site visits from the Revenue Photograph: Philip Meech

# How to avoid tipping off the taxman



Motel and restaurant staff who take Dart of their income as tips should be wary of the taxman. Paul Slade tots up the bill.

Many poorly paid staff in the restaurant and hotel trade rely on tips from satisfied customers to top up their weekly earnings. But, if they fail to declare these tips for tax, they could find themselves in trouble.

Grant Thornton, warns that staff and employers alike will face stiffer investigadue from this income under the new selfassessment regime. "I wouldn't put it past pool before sharing it out. tax inspectors to go and sit in a restaurant incognito just to see what's going on," he says. "Don't assume that the person sitting at that table who's just given you a tip is not a tax inspector."

Under self-assessment, the emphasis of the Revenue's work is shifting towards collecting tax which currently goes unpaid. Mr Warburton says: "You and It's an obvious one for the Revenue to have a go at."

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the Revenue will be putting more emphasis on chasing unpaid tax, and that this will include pursuing individuals benefiting from untaxed tips. "We'll be putting more resources into dealing with recalcitrant taxpayers rather than people who are scrupulous," he says.

As far as the Inland Revenue is concerned, tips are part of the worker's income, and are liable to tax in exactly the same way as wages. Nor does this tough new stance simply affect staff. Employers Mike Warburton, of accountants who operate systems to share out accumulated tips may find the Revenue presents them with a bill for all the Paye and tion by the Inland Revenue on the tax National Insurance contributions which he should have deducted from the tips

If inspectors decide tax should have been collected by the employer, they can then go back as far as six years to collect outstanding payments, as well as making penalty and interest charges.

By the time all these elements are added up. Warhurton says, the bill could come to £3,000 or more per member of staff, even where each staff I know that there is a lot of money that member takes an average of just £20 a gets paid out in tips that never gets taxed. · week in tips. "You could be talking about bankrupting some of these businesses."

His advice to employers who want to A Revenue spokesman confirms that avoid Paye and NIC liabilities, is to take just against the rich. Again, the bill could tem, you'll never get out of it."

themselves out of the loop by arranging for staff to administer the sharing out tips themselves, in what is known as a "troncmaster scheme". Warburton also advises employers to keep records of how much goes into the tips pool each week and which employees benefit. Without this, he says, the Revenue may

not accept the employer is in the clear. The other side of the coin, of course, is that the tax inspector then has the information he needs to pursue the individual staff involved. National Insurance liability is unlikely to apply, but penalties, interest and up to six years worth of backtax may still be due. "You could argue this is just shifting the hurden on to someone clse," Mr Warburton says, "But it shifts the burden on to the person who has the liability."

Staff taking annual tips of more than £500 a year - equivalent to just £10 a week - should be declaring the income on their own tax return. As low wage earners with no investment income, waiters and similar staff are unlikely to receive n tax return without requesting one.

But the fact that penalties for failing self-assessment means those penalties are far more likely to he used - and not

amount to several thousand pounds.

Tim Jones, a tax manager at Arthur Andersen, says: "It's a catch-all provision for the Revenue. Once they find out about someone with this son of income, they can demand their returns for prior years. Then they fine them, they surcharge them, and they charge interest. Then they come to a back-duty settlement and make a lot of money out

The Inland Revenue spokesman says: "If they have untaxed income, then it's their responsibility to tell us that. Someone who receives tips in excess of £500 a year will need to be in self-assessment and get a tax return."

He adds that says anyone receiving tips income of under £500 a year should inform the Revenue of this, and will be contacted once every three years to confirm the £500 ceiling has not been breached. Where tips amount to less than £500 a year, the individual's tax code is adjusted to take extra tax from his or her wage rather than the tips.

Mr Jones says: "They do raid restaurants now and again and, if you happen to file on time become automatic under to come into their clutches, they're going to ask you about previous years. Once your name is on the Revenue's sys-

### This year's verdict on our financial advisers

Readers of 'The Independent' are constantly exhorted to seek independent financial advice on their investment strategy. But what do advisers actually deliver? Last year, we chose a series of notional scenarios and asked them recommend a range of investments to meet

those needs. This week, Nic Cicutti sees how two more advisers fared.

Cherry Dodd, a senior independent financial adviser at Bradford & Bingley Building Societies, is based in the Luton and Cheshunt area. She was give the task of advising a couple in their mid to late 40s, who wanted to invest £10,000 to obtain income in retirement without taking too many risks.

She recommended three unit trusts, with £4,000 into GT's Income fund, £3,000 in Credit Suisse's Income fund and £3,000 in Morean Grenfell's UK Equity Income fund. Where possible, two of these funds should have been PEPed right away, she said.

The three funds delivered reasonable returns in the year to I January, according to HSW, the statistics providers. GT's fund achieved growth of 15.7 per cent, Credit Suisse grew 20 per cent, while Morgan Grenfell reached 21.1 per cent. All three returns were hid-to-bid hasis, with net income reinvested.

The £10,000 would now be worth a notional £11,861, although this does not take into account initial charges, including commission, incurred when setting up the investment.

But this is not an issue for Cherry Dodd: "In each case, these three funds have delivered excellent past returns highly respected firm in Brisover five, seven and 10 years. tol.

They all have excellent track records and good managers in place. We should be looking at their overall investment philosophy, not what they have done over one year. That is what I tell all my clients."

But what would she want to do with another £10,000 these same notional clients are making available? "My advice, again assuming the same lowrisk strategy, would be to place the entire £10,000 in Sun Life's Distribution fund.

"It invests about 40 per cent in UK equities, a further 40 per cent in fixed-interest stocks and the remainder in cash or other convertibles. It is relatively low risk and allows income to be taken or reinvested."

Last year, it delivered returns of 22.4 per cent.





Dodd both advised on investing for income

But what of people who need income right away? That was the task addressed by Kean Seager, an independent adviser and managing director at Whitechurch Securities, n

His investors wanted longterm income, plus capital growth to safeguard and enhance their future income stream, all with minimum risk.

He recommended £4,000 in an M&G Corporate Bond PEP and £3,000 in the Credit Suisse Income fund. He also recommended NPI's With Profits Bond for the remainder, although NPI does have a nominal minimum investment of £10,000.

In the 12 months to the beginning of this year, M&G's fund delivered net income of 6.2 per cent, plus tax-free growth of 10.3 per cent. Credit Suisse paid 3.9 per cent net. hut delivered additional growth of 16.7 per cent. NPI's bond delivered income of 8.5 рет сепt.

couple have "This achieved their objective in the past 12 months, 1 think that they should broadly stick with their existing investments in the coming year, except that they should look at their M&G corporate bond PEP. Having made some 10 per cent, let's see some more capital appreciation from bond markets.

"My advice for that money would be to look instead at GT's Strategic Bond fund, which pays income of 4.8 per cent net. It invests in fixed interest investments where the underlying bond is guaranteed hy the US government.

"As for the remaining £10,000, we should look at another with-profits bond, this time from Friends Provident. It is paying a guaranteed 6.5 per cent net and £7 per cent for investments over £5,000.

"But they should not pass up on the chance to invest for future capital growth. HSBC's UK Smaller Companies fund has an excellent manager in Ashton Bradhury. It has performed extremely well. UK smaller companies are due for a share revival on a longterm basis and I am confident this fund will deliver. My advice for the second £5,000 would be with HSBC."

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### **GAVIN GREEN**

To he, or not to be (green, that is). The recent Detroit Show highlighted this schizophrenia among US car manufacturers. Just a month after helping to hankroll ad campaigns urging Americans to reject a Kyoto greenhouse gas treaty, US car-makers devoted many press conferences to promoting environmental issues. One moment they'd promise to have a hydrogen fuel cell car ready for production by 2004. The next they'd unveil the latest V8-powered pick-up truck that'd be lucky to do 15mpg.

Along with some Japanese and European makers, the US is developing hydrogen fuel cells that promise no tailpipe pollution at all (and no carbon dioxide). They seem to be making progress - though so far none of the car companies has made it clear how the hydrogen itself can be produced in a green way - eg by solar power. If introducing fuel cells simply means existing power stations working harder, pollution from the primary source will increase - and power stations produce more pollution than cars, anyway.

The car manufacturers' need to innovate conflicts with their need to keep current customers happy. No matter bow censorious we Europeans get, Yanks want their cheap gasoline. They argue that inexpensive energy is one of the keys to the most successful economy on Earth. They also like driving around in pick-ups and 4x4s, and sedans with bonnets hig enough to land aeroplanes on.

Sales of "light trucks" (Yankspeak for big 4x4s, pick-ups and MPVs), the most gasguzzling sector of the market, are booming in the US. The biggest selling vehicle hy a mile is the Ford F-series pick-up, and the biggest single growth area is in hig off-roaders. And by big, I mean big. The Range Rover, mammoth of the motorways bere, is a motoring minnow in the US 4x4 market.

So as long as the Americans want trucks (and by 2000, analysts reckon, light trucks will make up more than half the total vehicle market), the US makers will give them trucks. The Japanese, equally customer focused, are also jumping on to the truck gravy train. Lexus, in Europe a byword for tasteful discretion and efficient engineering, launched a new 4x4 in Detroit that was almost as hig and thirsty as the local gluttons.

Meanwhile, to salve their consciences and those of the American people and their government (Bill Clinton even went on national TV to congratulate them), US car manufacturers are making bold noises about exciting new green technology.

Nonetheless, despite the PR puff, it is highly unlikely that we'll see any of these high-tech, potentially eco-friendly solutions in volume production for many years. The "production ready by 2004" boasts for hydrogen fuel ceils may he true. But unless there is a huge change in American public opinion, and taxation, these cars cannot possibly hope to compete with gasoline cars on price or popularity. They will be no more than minority vehicles, run by state utilities and car company-backed bodies - useful testbeds for the day, a few decades in the future, when new technology will either he cheaper (as oil prices rise), essential (as oil runs out) or mandated by government.

Either way, the car industry is preparing itself for change. It doesn't expect it to happen quickly, and it's confident that there's life left in the old petrol internal comhustion engine (rather more than many Detroit press conferences suggested, in fact). But in the meantime, hydrogen fuel cells and other newtech powertrains keep the journalists husy and make the car companies look good.

One day, though, they'll have to deliver. And that's when the US car makers, still the world's biggest, will show their true colours.

On your marques: invest some shoe-leather in the used-car Ints this january and you could drive away in a BMW 7-series Photograph: Peter Moodiarmid

# More metal for your money

The used car trade has got the January blues, and if you can afford to, now is the time to take advantage of those poor lonely blighters shivering on the forecourt. James Ruppert shows you how.

The car trade is highly seasonal. From the buoyant early spring it goes through to a strong summer and a gentle running down as autumn turns into winter. Then, come November, things get a little hit chilly. On the run-up to Christmas spare cash is being diverted to other spending. Not only that. but kicking tyres on a sub-zero forecourt is hardly a popular pastime. Canny used huyers with about £3,000 to £5,000

to spend know that this is the time to go shopping. Welcome to the January used-car sales. Superminis: If any type of car is going to defy the seasonal downturn, it will be the smaller hatchback

car which surprisingly fits the hill is the Fiat Pun-10. It's a thoroughly modern supermini which has led the company's Nineties renaissance. The Punto is well built and cheap to buy and run. Prices start at £3,000 for a high-mileage, 1994, three-door 55S. Hatchbacks: The second group of cars least likely to be on special offer will be in the so-called Golf class. Once again, practical and reliable cars never go out of fashion. VW Golfs aren't that cheap. Even the arrival of the all-new Golf means that only a high mileage and underpowered 1992 1.4 would be within budget. However, a Seat Ibiza 1.4 is effectively a rebodied but lighter and perkier version, built to VW standards. You can even afford a 1995 model.

Off-roaders: In theory 4x4 vehicles should be by far the strongest sector at this time of the year. Snow, ice and torrential rain are ideal conditions to show off. That was a few years ago, when they were fashionable. Sluggish performance, poor mpg and top-heavy handling has put them out of fashion. The only reason to huy a 4 x 4 is for work. Try which is perennially in demand. Everyone wants an a handy-sized 1992 Daihatsu Fourtrak, or, if you economical, practical and reliable small car. One want loads of room, then a Nissan Patrol is cum-

bersome, but hrilliant value at less than £5,000. People carriers: The Espace was the first and arguably best of the breed, in 1984. An early one would still cost £3,000; £5,000 puts a 1988 model within reach. Trouble is, they're not always in perfect nick. Toyota took the van-with-windows concept and applied it to its reliable and capacious eight-seat Space Cruiser; £5,000 buys a well-cared-for '90 model. Executive cars: Any time of the year is a bad time for big cars. Middle-management drivers traditionally opt for Ford Granadas and Vauxhall Carltons, but there is a classic alternative. The Saab 9000 has all the luxury trimmings. The absence of

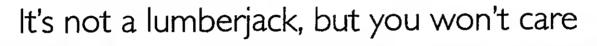
a BMW or Mercedes badge makes all the difference: high-mileage examples can be bought at give-away prices right now: 1992 2.0 CD salcon models with automatic transmission, air conditioning and an unfeasibly big boot, cost an easy £5,000. Luxury cars: These depreciate heavily, even with a BMW badge on the bonnet. While 3 and 5 series seem to defy gravity, £50,000 spanking new 7 series tumble to used-car reality at an alarming rate. Of

go wrong, but one that has been maintained regardless of cost by a plutocrat should not let you down. Try a 1990 735i for size.

Family cars: The size of the fleet-car sector means that it is sensitive to oversupply all year round, and even more likely to yield hargains at this time of the year. Best medium-sized hatch and saloon of the Nineties has been the Ford Mondeo, and they make great used huys, cheap to run and nice to drive. Cheapest is a '93 1.6, nicest a '95 2.0.

Sports coupés: Not the time of year to go looking for a frivolous sports car. So a good time to find a Nissan 200SX. Naff badge, but it looks the sports car part. Has good 2+2 accommodation, is very quick and utterly reliable because it is built by the same company that makes Micras. Underrated, fun, and a 1990 model is yours for less than £5,000. -

So when you go shopping this January, bear in mind that dealers are eager to do deals during their bleakest months. Also, any private advertiser is going to be pretty desperate to sell. Get a price guide such as Purker's from the newsagent and haggle



You should be able to get tartan and denim trim in a car called Forester, and a lifestyle option pack with axes and a chain-saw - but you can't. Subaru has missed a trick there, then. Frivolous? Not at all, says John Simister.

The Subaru is about nothing if not niche marketing, and niche marketing is a serdemand where none existed, that's the

Fat 4x4s of the Discovery and Shogun genre are variously practical workhorses, social status statements, or objects of derision, depending on your standpoint. This last view has taken a hold recently, because there are few sights dafter than that of a gas-guzzling, bull-barred, fat-tyred Tonka toy parked half on the pavement outside the school gates. The clever thing to do, if you want to combine a 4x4's usefulness with social sensibility, is to find one which is a little lower, less visually aggressive and less needlessly profligate with the Earth's natural resources. In short, you want an estate car and a 4x4 in one. And that's the new niche.

You've probably read about the Land Rover Freelander - seen the ads. had the mailshots. It's the highest profile of the "soft-roaders", and the best

suited to all-terrain travel. But there are others: Toyota's RAV4 defined the breed, Honda's CRV enlarged it and the Forester, launched just before the Freelander, refined it.

Of them all, the Forester is the only one to have meaningful four-wheel drive happening all the time. The others only divert power to their rear wheels when the fronts are slithering. In practice it makes little difference one way or the other, because automatic allwheel drive is always there when you need it, but it does give the Subaru an ious husiness. Exploit new trends, create uncannily secure feeling when you're going quickly on a wet road.

Here is the Subaru's great strength. Relatively low in build, half-way in height between a full-size off-roader and an ordinary estate car, and with a low centre of gravity thanks partly to its unusual flat-four engine, the Forester is an entertaining drive. It corners quickly, steers accurately and rides well, calling for none of the relearning of motion physics that you need for a 4x4 of the tall and topply variety. Part of the prowess comes from the fact that under its loftier build, the Forester has broadly the same underpinnings as the Impreza Turbo, which is one of the most roadadhesive cars known to the world today.

True, the Forester goes squidgy in a bend long before the hot Impreza, as you might expect, but then it's also able to tackle fields and farmtracks, provided they're not too lumpy. A Freelander can venture further into the wilds, long after



SUBARU FORESTER Specifications

Price: £16,400. Engine: 1.994cc, four cylinders in horizontally opposed pairs, 16 valves, 122bhp at 5,600 rpm. Five-speed gearbox, four-wheel drive. Top speed 111mph, 0-60 in 10.3sec, 26-31mpg.

Honda CRV LS: £17,020. Noisy, otherwise average in every way. Options include a portable shower.

Land Rover Freelander Station Wagon i: £17,995. Expensive next to Forester, but chunkier looks, better off-road ability, competitive on-

Toyota RAV4 GX 5-door: £17,463. Not particularly tough, but light weight gives lively if buzzy performance. Looks cute, feels cheaply made. the Forester has pulped its underpinnings, hut for the uses to which most will put an off-roader, the Forester should do just fine.

It's lively, too, the uneven and lazy beat of its flat-four disguising the fact that there's 122bhp on tap and vigorous acceleration provided you're prepared to work the engine hard. There's even an extra set of low-speed gear ratios, just as in a proper 4x4. It's frustratingly easy to operate the low-range selector lever instead of the hand brake, though, because they are right next to each other.

You step up into a Forester, but only slightly, and the driving position is normal and car-like apart from the extra space above your head. But not many cars give you an extra power socket in the back, and a plastic recess which is intended to double as a washing-up bowl. This is one of a claimed 20 storage areas - I confess I didn't count them all - which include a fishing-rod compartment (but not an axe-holder). Unlike many 4x4s, the Forester has its spare wheel stored conventionally inside, so it can have a conventional, lift-up tailgate. This is easier to live with than the over-engineered contraptions found elsewhere.

The Forester brings together the best aspects of an estate car and a 4x4. It's, cheap, too, relatively speaking. It's no beauty – it looks a hit dated and square. cut, in fact - hut neither is it kitsch. If they thought about it, a lot of people could need one quite badly.

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### MY WORST CAR - RUSSELL GRANT'S MG 1300

I called my first car Jupiter. which is the planet of travel. It was a Ford Anglia, and it took me all over the country without ever letting me down, which is more than can be said for my second, and worst, car - a horrible MG 1300.

Poor old Jupiter's floor rustcd through, and I had to huy a replacement. The MG was certainly attractive, with its Bermuda yellow paintwork and black vinyl roof. That's why I called it Venus-it was pretty-but the moral was that appearances can be highly deceptive.

Persuading the MG to start was a constant trial. Instead of a reassuring whire before the engine itself would engage, all I would ever hear was a duil thud, then nothing. The hattery was always dead, and hardly a day went by when the car didn't cause me some sort of grief.

When it conked out one day on the Hammersmith flyover, that was the final straw. I had to get out and push. I made it off the flyover, stopped outside a pub and I went in for a couple of stiff brandies. I never drove the MG again; I phoned my local garage and said, "get rid of it".

always tried to pay some at- them to check it out, but the column in the TV Times." Un-



Venus': appearances can be deceptive

tention to the car's astrological chart. Provided you can find out when a thing was made, you can chart absolutely anything.

I remember huying one of the first Austin Maestros, the talking ones, which had a female voice to give you various stern warnings. I found that it was hadly aspected. Its relationship to Uranus wasn't very good, and that is the planet that relates to electrics. The garage could not After that experience I have find any problems when I asked

voice went from soprano to bass in a week, and this butch woman kept telling me l was running out of petrol.

On one occasion 1 really should have paid closer attention to my own predictions. While reversing my VW Golf on a building site 1 ran over some planks, which gave way. I ended up at a 90-degree angle, looking at the sky from the bottom of a sewerage ditch.

A friend said: "Read your



der my star it said: "Watch out for hidden obstacles."

Russell Grant is presenting House Busters' from 19 January at 8.30pm on Channel 5. He was talking to James Ruppert. +

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### AT HOME

# For an utterly wicker experience ...

Until recently, willow baskets were as fashionable as lace-up shoes and bikes with mudguards. Now, as Rosalind Russell writes, you cannot open a glossy home magazine without seeing them and other willow containers squatting in kitchen units, in place of drawers, or lined up along shelves tagged with luggage labels listing the contents.

Stylists, who obviously do not have bulging cupboards and crammed drawers in their own homes, declare wicker is the way forward for storage. Bad luck for those who hoard bundles of three-year-old gas bills, but it is good news for a select hunch who may have felt left out on a limb in the scramble for high-tech living.

One of those stripping the willow is Susie Thomson, a basket weaver who admits the craft's image has been "desper-

Ms Thomson, a recently elected Yeoman member of the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers. "Remember all those wooden trays everybody used to make?"

Ms Thomson, who grows and harvests six varieties of willow on a south London allotment, makes haskets destined for more up-market homes. She has had commissions from Egg. a Knightsbridge shop selling expensive clothes and home accessories, and from Marston and Langinger, which makes conservatories and furnishings for them.

A Susie Thomson shopping basket in the "strawberry" design, indented to follow the curves of your body while being carried, is likely to cost you £75.

"People don't expect to find a hasket maker in Battersea," she ucknowledges. The weaving is done in a workshop at the foot of her garden - unheated as the willow cannot be allowed to dry out. Harvesting the willow from the tennis court-sized allotment in Norbury must be done in winter when the sap is low, and the willow used within six weeks. Com-"It has been very hard to get away from mercial willow strippers use machines, but

spring such as last one encourages the willow to grow and her new crop was 8ft high when it was coppiced. When her own allotment does not yield enough willow, it can be bought in from growers in Somerset and Belgium.

A basket can take a day to weave, depending on the complexity. A pedlar hasket - hig enough to be regarded as a piece of furniture - can be used to store bed linen, towels or blankets and costs £180.

A traditional bride's basket, costing £90, takes around nine hours and makes an unusual wedding present. The design was inspired by a Bavarian tradition of giving a hride woven baskets to carry her dowry from her father's house to her new husband's house. "There would have been different kinds, from a white willow basket for clean laundry to others used for fruit carried in a procession, the number showing the status of the family," Ms Thomson

'Most people have a good understanding of other crafts like pottery hut 88100; The Pier 0171 637 7001; Debenhams think of basket weavers as trolls sitting in

the occupational therapy image," admits Ms Thomson does here by hand. A wet a cave, weaving away. I am quite passionare about putting style into it."

Commissions can take up to 16 weeks. Ms Thomson will be exhibiting at the Country Living Fair in London from 25 to 29 March.

There are, of course, also mass market haskets, which can be found quite easily. Next Interiors offers a wicker storage box with side handle and hinged lid (62cm long, 38cm wide, 38cm deep) at £59.99, and a set of three shallow storage trays at £19.99. Lakeland sells willow shelf baskets, suitable for kitchen or bathroom storage, at £12.95 for two, and a willow basket trio - three sturdy baskets with wooden handles - for £16.95. The Pier's Milano sideboard houses three large wicker baskets instead of cupboards or drawers and costs £149. And Debenhams sells a square wicker chest, suitable for blankets, at £50 and vegetables and they would have been and bakers' baskets with handles on the sides from £10.

> Susie Thomson 0171 223 4806; Next Interiors 0116 284 9424; Lakeland 015394



# When hunting a house, recruit a special agent

There are many ways of finding a property. One is to register with every estate agent in the area you want to live in - and risk receiving piles of dross in the mail. Another way is to define the kind of home you need and find the agent best suited to deliver it. Gnetta Vedackas examines severa potential house-hunting scenarios to discover who are the movers and shakers in that field.

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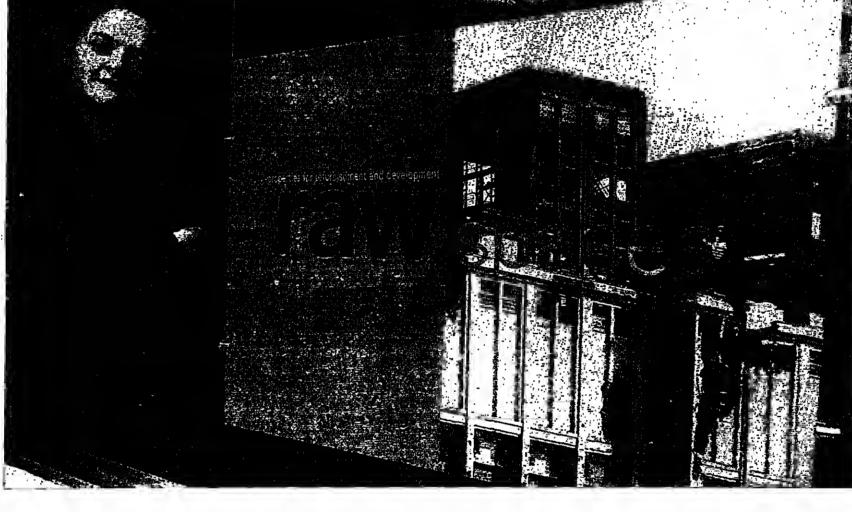
Years ago a house-hunting mission led me to Hamptons' Dulwich branch in London. A helpful agent took my requirements: three bedrooms, garden and as near to the village as possible.

Then it came to the crunch question. How much would I like to spend? I muttered feebly, quickly adding £10,000 I could not afford, and it became clear that Hamptons and I were incompatible. Had I said pence rather than pounds? Feeling like someone looking for lard in Harrods, I shuffled off to a, shall we say, less sought-after area where agents did not pale

There is clearly an art to choosing the right agent. It is pointless registering with Savills, the serious end of the market, if you are after a bargain repossession.

Mary-Anne Crafter describes her company, Hamptons, as "middle to upa £5m home in Mill Hill, north London. It also has "good quality period cottages" for £150,000. Hamptons has no minimum price hut would it market a suit of "space" in the emerging residential cheap and nasty home? "If we believed we could do it justice," Ms Crafter says.

Weary home-hunters, on any hudget, push to change industrial space into home.



at my pairry price range and have lived here could do worse than access a central database which holds thousands of property details. Director Hilary Wade says Winkworth is London's largest agent: "We have offices from Streatham to Knightsbridge and can send a tailor-made list matching your fi-

nancial specification and location." Price range is not everything. Strutt & per market". Currently on the hooks is Parker, Knight Frank, and Aylesford may dominate established, wealthy areas such as Chelsea and Belgravia in London. But the über-chic are turning elsewhere in pur-

areas on the City's edges.

Manhattan Lofts is a prime mover in the

Pioneers of the now-deeply trendy Clerkenwell, over half of its apartments in N1's The Factory (a reference to Mr Warhol) have sold and many to "bankers and lawyers".

Surely Andy didn't approve of day jobs? Ice Wharf, a canalside development is being marketed by Pilcher Hershman and its site. "Gateway to Europe" - King's Cross to you and I - is ripe for development as aspirational properties replace the area's more notorious industry.

A friend viewed a canalside apartment but found it smelled like the Ganges and that was in December". Development is not the only thing which should be ripe by next Sununer.

Shell-seekers can choose from an abundance of agents jostling for position in their quest to sell the next important space. A company's name often divulges its market which is why you will not find terrace houses on offer at Clerkenwell's Urban Spaces.

"We don't have washing lines full of details," says Merope Nelson, ancgotiator. \*Our market is non-traditional so we're redefining how we sell. Our clients want to know about light and square footage, they're not interested in exteriors and often don't mind where they live as long as the space is right."

Urban Spaces' windows have concepts rather than property details. Space is de-

fined as "living, work, raw or shell" for the benefit of creative clients, designers and photographers, who want large living and working areas which they can style themselves. Lettings form a considerable slice of its market and because spaces can be idiosyncratic Merope looks for clients service. who appreciate designer German doorknobs".

Who will find that cosy retirement bungalow by the sea when you can no longer manage the urban loft's stairs? Fort Knox of Frinton, which could be named after its clients' love of security, operates through word of mouth rather than advertising. "In Frinton, if they know you they'll come to

Merope Nelson: 'Our clients are not interested in exteriors" Photograph: Rui Xavier

you," says Shauna Heal, a negotiator.

dation. "Elderly people don't like things like Internet, they haven't even got computers." says Gordon Suckling, whose company has been selling retirement homes for more than 25 years. Seventy per cent of his clients are elderly and are looking for large bun-

Other local agents rely on recommen-

Why Frinton? "They've been coming here on holiday all their lives," Mr Suckling says. "It's their ambition to retire here for peace and quiet. People don't want to be pestered and you can't even huy an ice cream on the beach - it's virtually an island." He becomes guarded as he remembers a previous scandal to hit lown: "That hooha about [the council] banning the fish and chip shop, some newspaper chap had a hee in his bonnet about Frinton."

Renee Everett first used Gordon Suckling's services 28 years ago and has bought and sold through his company ever since. She has travelled hut prefers Frinton. "It's my favourite place. When I'm away I can't get back fast enough."

When her hushand became seriously ill they decided to sell their large house and buy a flat there. "Gordon did everything he could to make life easier for us," she says. Mrs Everett, whose husband later died feels settled in her flat and relieved to live in a community where the local agent plays a strong part. Frinton may move at a slower pace but what it lacks in technological advancement it makes up for with personal

Hamptons: 0171 8248822; Savills: 0171 7300822: Winkworth: 0171 7271117; Strutt & Parker: 0171 629 7282; Knight Frank: 0171 629 8171; Aylesford: 0171 351 2383; Manhattan Lofts: 0171 631 1888; Pilcher Hershman: 0171 486 5256; Urban Spaces: 0171 251 4000; Fort Knox: 01255 674099; Gordon Suckling: 01255 851185.

# THREE TO VIEW. WITH FAMOUS NEIGHBOURS

Number 23 St James's Gar- Weir Stables was converted dens, in Holland Park, London W11, left, is an impressive Vicbut younger, neighbours who include Elton John, Jeremy Payman, Richard Branson and Peter Hobday. The fourstorey, three-bedroom house has a double reception room with 11ft ceiling height and two marble fireplaces. The lower ground floor dining room has double doors leading to an illuminated terrace and private garden designed by Penelope Hobbouse, of Gurdener magazine. It is for sale through John Wilcox & Co for £1.45m (0171 602 23521.

Manion Weir Stables in Manton. Wilishire, above right, is just down the road from the well known flat trainer Peter Chapple-Hyam, who runs a string of famous race horses. including many owned by Robert Sangster, Manton

into a four-bedroom house seven years ago. The exposed torian house with impressive. timbers and beams were retained, but there is now a dining hall, sitting room, study and two bathrooms. Agents Egerton is asking for around £3(NUNNI (U171 493 0676).

> Vera Low's Cottage, right, is a 17th century thatched coltage with views across part of the Althorp Estate in Northamptonshire, ancestral home of Charles Althorp and the resting place of Diana, Princess of Wales. The restored five-bedroom house on the edge of Upper Harlestone has an 18ft kitchen with Aga, drawing room with inglenook fireplace, a large study and double garage. It is named after a former occupant whose husband was a gardener on the Althrop estate. Agents Bidwells is asking (29(0)00 (0)004









include the White House in Alrewas, Staffordshire, above, Jackson-Stops & Staff (01305 parts of which are believed to 262123), which is also selling a be 400 years old. It is priced at Grade II\* five-bedroom cottage, £120,000 and offered through Bill Tandy and Company (01543

with coach house and 1.66 857588).

acres, has an asking price of £340,000. It is offered through Brockhill, near Wareham in

In Kingston, Devon, a two-The Old Came Rectory, in bedroom cottage, part of a row Came, Dorset, below, a Grade of five, is offered at £79,950 II listed five-bedroom house through Marchand Petit (01548



Thatched cottages may look as pretty as a picture with their heavy laden eyebrows, roses around the door and pheasant standing aloof on the apex of the roof, but many purchasers shy away from thatch because of its perceived fire risk and insurance cost. Yet, as Mary Wilson writes, such factors need no longer be an issue.

Sue Millward, who is selling The Green Cottage, a four-bedroom thatched property in Withington, Hereford, had it re-thatched about seven years ago. "The old thatch was 3fi deep and had been patched over many times over the last 30 years," she says. "We had it taken right off as we were putting on an extension to the bouse and wanted to check the eaves were sound."

She had the thatch done in Norfolk Reed, which cost her around £12,000. If she had chosen straw it would have cost around £7,000. There are three basic types of thatch long straw, which lasts around 20-25 years. winter wheat which has a life of 25-35 years and water reed, with a longevity of up to 70 years. As there are few thatches in Hereford, Mrs Millward was able to choose which one she wanted, but often the planners will dictate which type of thatch is per-

There are around 600 full-time thatchers in Great Britain, hut in some areas finding one can he tricky. Mrs Millward had quite a problem hecause of the lack of thatch in her area. "We looked in the Yellow Pages and checked out the work of three thatchers, but we were slightly in the dark as to how good or not they were - who knows what a really good thatch looks like? We eventually found one we liked, who lived just outside Worcestershire."

Apart from the difference in the quotes. where they lived also had quite a bearing. Thatching a property from scratch can take up to 12 weeks and if the thatcher cannot travel to the property daily, he will have to be put up somwhere.

Mrs Millward says living in a thatched cottage is just like being in a bouse with a tea-cosy on it. "We had hirds peeping around the corner in the morning," she says. Blue tits, swallows and sparrows would nest in the thatch, but sometimes it did sound



When Mrs Millward lived in the house, not concerned with the type of roof, so her

she had it insured by a high street insurer But the thatch kept the house cool in the thatch. But when she started letting it, she four-bedroomed cottage for £175,000.)

insurance went down. (Arkwright Owens

went to a specialist holiday insurer who was

Though many insurers will not even consider a thatched house, modern fire retardants reduce the likelihood of a thatch catching alight and a thatched house, if it is in a high-risk area, can be cheaper to insure than a traditional tiled house. There are a number of specialist insur-

ers. Some take the value of the house rather than the postal area it is in, which makes it cheaper and it is worth shopping arounds Country Insurance Services, for example is more concerned with the state of the thatch and how well it has been maintained. than where the property is.

Even house-builders are constructing houses with thatched rooves. Berkeley. Homes has built three in Hampshire and in the unspoilt village of Abbots Ripton; Hungtingdon, County Homes by Ambros den Court has finished one development and is building another where half the hous es are thatched.

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Thatching takes about three times longer to build than a filed home and puts on an extra £10 per square foot to the asking price. The remaining thatched houses at Dove House Wood are available for £339,500 and £354,500,

To protect the thatch, a fire-retardant spray can be used on both the outside and inside - costing around £7.95 a square metre - and with a new house, or if starting from scratch, a flameproof foil barrier can be put between the rafters. That prevents a fire on the outside getting into the house, or vice versa if it starts inside and costs about 10-15 per cent of the total cost

Most thatch fires are chimney related. and a special extinguisher is now available. which can be installed right in the chimney. The next most usual cause is electrical faults, with sparks from a bonfire in the garden coming way down the list.

The Thatchers' Advisory Service, which has 27 thatchers working for it around the . country and which thatched the Globe Theatre in London, will give advice, free, to anyone on any aspect of thatching and offers insurance policies. For the Globe, it dipped every bundle of Norfolk Reed in . fire-retardant before it was put on; which: is another, more expensive, way of protecting it.

County Homes by Ambrosden Count, 01869. 241481; Arkright Owens, 01432 267213; Thatchers' Advisory Service, 01256 880828 or like a herd of elephants above our heads. who hiked the premiums because of the in association with Humherts is selling the ask for Freephone Thatch; Country Insurance

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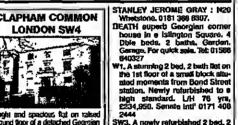
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